







## BE THERE WHEN THESE THREE TALK

Because the sensational exposes of organized crime in America which electrified the nation were only a rehearsol for the shocking revelations you'll see in the picture that begins where the Senate Crime Committee left off...



ROBERT MITCHUM - LIZABETH SCOTT - ROBERT RYAN

"THE RACKET" you'll kn what their real agains of



# STARFILLING STORIES

Yel. 24, No. 3 A THRILLING PUBLICATION

enutry, 1952

JOURNEY TO BARRUT Barris I do Murroy Leinster

A book-shop relis lends Tony Gregg to the odd into d djimus
and sing, drugons and dreams, walking castles and talking sand

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PARTIMON PROPERTY PROPERTY OF A SHARE OF PARTY PARTICULARS (St. N. L. Pring) Particular at 1225 Person Party Party



# THE THER TES

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cashes an Augusta is that this greenth appears as the many and shift, and in find how the state of the house trade, and in the house trade, and the state of the

### Once a Fan

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As we have found mostly read in the manuse of t

Skely found the startes to be of the elementary type first tood and new outgrown in the magnetises of fifteen spears age. A mass process in "2th High Styre core of the few which did his his "2th High Styre core of the few which did his of the inculture "torth doorsed by an approaching san" type. The stimus-felding here is slight and is sted mote as a neclear for ustility of the startes of the startes of the looking the startes above to the feld in the becomes than fee in even sale. In the motern magnetic starty, on the order leads,

### Perennial Favorites

chi sainisa stalina dia popularira, Simino - Merrira is 300 garing zirsa piran, Vina Vagri Sian bia saparantiy areve bost are possitive, and raintee, and continuity salveng possitive, and raintee, and continuity salveng to the salveng sal

On the other side of the lonce, many a new and more augmented crop (Consend as more A)



## You Can Influence Others With Your Thinking!

TWO IT SOME TIME. Concentral interfy upon acclusi pressus saids to a room with you, when the acting E. Charen like gracelly lamme median and lawly room and below his year deptice. Supplement is a parties of homeostation, that fuguelt questions a south assumance of seconds. Do you readed how much of your receives and largetime to this deposit specific pressurement of seconds. Do you readed to be much of your receives and largetime to this deposit specific pressurement of seconds. Do you readed agrees your functioning cleans? In our strengthen they want to have after understood your point of strengths for resource to two proposal?

Demonstrable Facts

Here cases there have you without does were some supyou could amore, we seem for restribuje-up cours in Manyers and amore, we seem for restribuje-up course in Manria you about? That thoughts are in unimostical, and contracted of the other simulations of the simulations of all similar by the manners the new harves to be finalted. The analysis observed the restriction on the tense storagil, you annotate office of the simulation of the restriction of the simulation of the simulation of the simulation contract for the simulation of the simulation of annotate window contract the Storagieries in Sec.

This Free Book Points Out the Way. The Brakerwen (out a pligton appetitude) better you've to supply the promoted per point to supply the promoted per point. These possible complete appetitude here associated hardlessy that the state of supply the point to be store to one hardless of demonstrate They will then you here to the your actived factor, seed before to describe the point of the point

## The ROSICRUCIANS

Scale CRA. The Restriction AMORG. Reservative Pool, San Jee, California. Study and on a few capy of the heal. The

News.

## THE FIRE VIERATES

speries are also on their way to book publication West Of The Dreamers by John D. MacDonald, which you will remember from mer name, will some oer hand covers, as will House Of Mees Worlds, by San Merein

In the field of arthologues, Groff Conklin's books have been in a class by themselves. Him thing his 33,800 cooles; his second, A Treepers Of Science Further, above 26,000 coases. and so on Apparently they will contains to

## Science Fiction for Children

Print has cellaborated with lack Corpora on a seet id ranter edition of Willie Loc's conby Mulcolm Jameson. The extension of att into a child's world

of wildrest feeture. They was set with no holds barred. However, a sectous note is creepone in as the prospects of space travel grew more real - Instead of Back Regers' adventures the new books try to give children some idea of the attreetse we live in and of the

All of which continues to please us. The respected are still the largest source of stories, the best market for authors, the train-Though we applied the publication of all falls. And that, therefore, every reader of a book the The Sty Eye will feed his appetre whether for more and better science-fiction.

frees now on will bring you just twice as much ferrom face as it did. And with more authors given more opportunity to present process, too, the quality of the literary ments program over the votes!

D in these lendes A lot of them are still addressed to Sam Merwin and they're too good fan not to print just as they are

## RETURN OF THE NATIVE

Dear Editor. Well, I see there have been some changes made in 55 since I young the Name. An interesting development in the field is four riorths any and tomporerly last contact with fundout And, helieve me, they're mark's much for the turner! Lut me community with a muc to know, viry think amount of us to set on has a facile occurr to histor of official, to feel the 41 If you don't believe it has look back over some of the letters I wrote in "the good old was thorographic conducts on file. proving it. And hoth! I've fallen in love with consens of difference between hir and the least

> Your lead novel was only lair. No, not that! case I, the rester, duty's care whether Shoreh commenting entrant in st[ ] believe) taved all those worlds or nor Thark a harmful those to say, I know, more the reader is respond to be in the officers seenably with the wither of my inertary orbs can peer, you failed to give as g reason for the whole roes at the beginning of the store; you didn't tell in adm the world had to be saved, but wasted sized the end of



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## **JOURNEY**



A book-shop relic leads Tony Grean to a riotous land of diinns

## TO BARKUT



mension. His first visit was simply for shishkebab, which is a wonderful dosh of lamb cubes skewered on small round sticks and cooked with an un-

likely sauce containing grape-leaves. It was quite secidental that he asked

STARTLING STOKES

the owner of the restaurant about a celuthat he.—Tony—carried as a buck-poce. Tony had bought it for a buck-poce. Tony had bought it for a buck-pocenin one of those tiny shops on sine-streets in New York, where antique jewelry and ivory chesamen and similar wares are on display in the windows. He picked it

out because it looked odd. His conscience
what had been raised with a very articulant consense—reluctantly consented
to the purchase because the odn was
very heavy for its size and might be
gold. (It certainly wasn't a medal, and
therefore had be be no only. It beer an
inscription in conventionalized Arabic
to the property of the size of the property of the size
inscription in conventionalized Arabic
to the property of the p

inscription in conventionalized Arabic script on one side, and sensiting on the other that looked like an claborate throne without anybody sitting on it. But a ben Tony tried to look it up, there-aimply wasn't any received in any numismatic catalog of any counage, even re-ambline is.

ONE alpht—this was his fact vitil, not the later one when he learned about the factor of dimension—he want to the factor of the

now ough eather. According to the property of the first special part o

what people tell you. So-Tony kept vi

way been from the office he poused outside Paddy Scialion's Bar and Grill and gravely teased the com to one whether he abouth have a drink or not. Which was a pretty good way of being settler too abstemous or too regular its such matters. His constrince approved of this, too.

He didn't really think the coin brought

hom pool lock, but the small mystery of its thirtiespool ham. He was a rather confidery young man, was You, Ried or the pool of the pool o

polite, attentive to his duties, efficient and no clock-watcher; and the radio re-

dressing that he'd better use a specific touch-paste, har stitkins, herath decolorent, and brand of pepulsin-prised colorent, and brand of pepulsin-prised sensething vages and mysterirous around, ifter the coin.

It couldn't have been made as a novetty or anything like that Not when it were anything like that Not when it were anything like that Not when it may be the sense of the sense of the sense anyone had ever heared of. He flight to think that there was some mystery about it's having reached his hands;

anyone had ever heard of. He lifed to their blat there was some reyslery about it's having reached his hands; some rigerfactor in the fact that he had come to even it and so one else. To make it seem more significant, probably, he got into the habit of toosing it for all decisions of no particular moment. Whether to go to all-frame cornel. Whether or not to said this regular resdently reserved decision. It considered doubty reserved decision.

the light of using it to make small deci-

## TO BARKUT

sions had become fixed, when one eve he should go to his regular restaurant for dinner. It came talls. No. He was mildly amused. To enother restaurant uptown? Tails again. He flipped and flipped and flipped. His common sense told him that he was simply running into a long securace of tails. But he liked to think that the decisions of the evir were mysterious and significant. Tonight he got a little excited when one place after another was negatived. He ran out of restaurants he could remember having dined in. So he tossed his

execute discouraging opinion science now spoke acidly, and he had to assere it that he didn't really believe that the coin meant anything, but that he only liked to pretend it did. So he sat down at a table and autoatically flipped the coin to see whether be should order skisklobab or not. The awarthy, slick-haired proprietor grinned at him. There was a build-headed men at a table in the back-a man in impercebly tellored clothing, with goldrimmed everlances and the definite dark dignity of a Levantine of some sort.

"Say," said the proprietor, in wholly

## A Modern Arabian Mights

MEY once in a white on affect comes serous a stawhich causes no weighty thoughts, preaches no sweron, greats no any, care no court divout but in deep deficient acceptance of the contract of t tracer to humanity if he did not immediately her, however And halony who shall are whether washen or further in KUENEY TO BARKUT is the Audion Nights with a Learner track of its own. If you level the courses seed as further ages tolk. Leck



coin with the mental note that if it came heads he'd try a new restnurant, where he'd never dined before. But the coin came tails. Negative. Then he really racked his brains and remembered the East Broadway. He flipped for that And the coin came heads

TE GOT on the tubway and rode He downtown, while his omecience made scornful comments about superstition. He went into the small converted store with sensthing of an anticipators thrill. His way of life was just about as unexciting as anybody's life could be way he was raised, which had created a conscience with a mind of its own and

colloquial English. "You showed me a funny goldpiece last time you were bere. Is it that? Mr. Emurisa, back there, be knows a lot short that stuff. A very educated man! You want I should ask

This seemed to Tony a mysterious coincidence. He agreed concerly. restaurant-keeper took the coin. showed it to the bald-handed man. They tolked at leaoth not in Exolish. The restaurent keeper enme back.

"He preer seen one like it." he renerted. "And he never heard of Barkut, where it says it come from. But he says there's a kinda story about ooins and things like that-things that come from places that nobody ever heard of. He'll tell you if you want."

14 STABILING STORIES - "Please!" said Tony. He found his heart heating faster. "If he'll from

me\_" "Oh, be'll have a curps coffee, maybe " said the restourant, kerror "On the house. He's 2 very educated man, Mr.

He went back. The bald-headed man rose and came with easy dignity toward Topov's table. His owns twinkled Torry

was flustered because this Mr. Emurian Rustith and was to perfectly at case. "There is a legend," he teld Tony

if I may not down my coffee-cun? Thank rou." He sat. "It is an old wiven' tale, and yet it fits oddly into the theories of Mr. Einstein and other learned men' But I know a man in Ispahan who would give you a great sum for that cain because of the legend. Would you wish to

soll 5" Tony shook his head. "Say-five bubdred dollars!" asked Mr. Emurian, amiliar behind his eveglasses. "No? Not even a thousand? I will give you the address of the man who would buy it, if you ever wish to sell." Tony year too flobbareasted to seem

stinke his head. Mr. Emurion Isughed, "This man," he contained aminbly. "would say that the coin comes from a country which is not upon our many because it is unanrevariable by any ordinary means. Yet it is wholly real and actually has a certale commerce with us. It is how have you ever heard of worlds supposed to be like ours, but in other-ab-di-

mensions, say, or in parallel but not identical times?" "I've read Wells' 'Time Mackins.' " said Tony owkwardly

"Not at all the same," the dark man assured him, "And notions of startling near machines for traveling between sets of dimensions or in time itself are oute abourd. Discoveries of that sort are never dressie! When electricity was discovered, it was your own Franklin. but quite commonplace. Every thunderstorm since time began had demonstrated it. Similarly, if travel between worlds or to other times should ever become really practical, it is certain that the discovery will not be dramatic. It will turn out that neonle have been doing it for centuries as a matter of course,

without over realizing it." "You mean-" Tony stormed. "The legrand," said Mr. Emprisan. "surposets that your coin came from a

world not our own. That it came from a world schare history coits truthfulls teach to children." He recarded Tony sentfully and said, "Ordinarity two things which are equal to the same thing are equal to each other. But two places which are exactly serial to each other are identical-are the same place. Now consider! Suppose that somewhere there existed a world in which Aladdin's lamo

excuted and was in good working order. Suppose that upon that world there was a whose which was absolutely identical with a sleep in this world. It would have to be a place where the working or not working of Aladdin's lamp made absolutely no difference. Now, according to the legand, those two places, on two worlds, would actually be one place which was on both worlds, and whichwould serve as a perfectly practical gateway between them. Travelers would pass casmily through it without ever notherne vi. You and I. perhaps, pess

out the least realization." satisfaction in the look of mystified enthusiasm on Torr's face. He warrd a

"Look at this restaurant. Here, Tomight," he said, beaming "Today, for example. Calcutta' could have vanished der the ses. Or it could not. Here and now, we knowing nothing about it, such as sweet would still have made no slightest difference. So that from this restauwho observed that it was no new force.

rant tonight we could walk out into two different worlds -you into the one where anch an event had taken nince, and fi into the world where it did not. And I might go and live peopefolly and die of

old upp in the Colemta which to you was utterly destroyed." "But we are in the same world!" ren-

tested Tony, "We'll stay in the same world?"

"Probably, but are you sure?" Mr. Rmurian twinkled through his glasses, "We have rever soon each other before How do you know that I have always lived in this particular world? How do in which I was born is the same? I was if we separate here tonight, and you nover see or hear of me again, how will

inhabit?"

Tony said painfully, but with his heart beating fact; "I-guess I won't. But there's no

proof, either, that "We agree," said Mr. Emuriso, andding. "There can be no proof. I have other worlds. They are not quite real to

us because we council reach them at will. But according to legand they touch each other at many places, and it is noneible to travel from one to another and in fact we constantly visit the frontiercities of other worlds without ever knowing it. We do not know it, because we are a part of our own world, and there is an attraction; a magnetism; a gravitation, perhaps; which draws us eateway of a world which is not our

He recepted Tony bene through his everlasses. "As for your coin-sometimes that

gravitation or that attraction is not epough. We stray deep into other worlds and doubtless we are very unbanes. Or an object from another world strays into ours. But always the gravitation or the magnetism remains to some de



STARTLING STORES in Israhan Tony Greek looked almost hanorily

gree. That is what my friend in Inspalan believe—oo' firmly that he might be willing to pay you as march as two thousand dollars for the coin in your hand."
Tony lecked at the min with deep respect. He had never in all his life before owned anything worth even a fraction of two thousand dollars. His conscience spoke in no uncertains terms. He said

slowly:
"I—suppose I ought to sell it, then. I
can't really afford to carry around a
luck-piece as valuable as that I—might
lose it." After a moment, he said with
lift if suppose your friend is a coin-

collected?
"Not at all," said Mr. Emorran. "He
is a bastiness man. He would use the
onin, I am's mr., to set into this other
world and set up a branch of his bensase there. He would import Barkutian
datas or dried iga or rugs, or possely
off and frankmanness and myrrh. He
cooks in exchange for Birmingham cutercy, printed exten ofth, and Servasnes

issups. And if the atmosphere were conpertable be might establish a residence pertable be might establish a residence there, staffed with pretty slave-piris and slife of comfortable luxway with no fear of atemic bombs and communistem."

Teny and more wistfully still:

 Tony said more wistfully still:
 "How would the coin guide him to Barket?"-

Mr. Emurian gently shook an admontory finger,
"You accept my legend as fact, my dear air! You are a remantie!" Their he selded comfortably: "I do not know how he would use the cein as a guida. I

he neided coinfortably: "I so not know how he would use the coin as a guide. I do know that he would consider that it was not quite real in this world, and brince abouth he exempt from some physical lines. He would expeed it so physical lines. He would expeed it so real, which it could only do by returning to fig own time and place. How the latitudery would show that if, I cannot guess. But I will write own my friend's more and address I promise that he will my you a high price for your token." at the cofn. An idea came into his fread.
His conscience, its eyes on that two
thousand, protested indignantly.
"Till let the coin decide," he said unhappoly. Heads I sail it, talls I don't.
He toused. The cent thumped on the
table, Talls. He galped in relief and
pashed back his chair.
"It's settled," he said, funning a little.

"It's settled," he said, finshing a little in the excitement, "And—and I won't take your friend"s address because I—"don't want to be able to change my mind."

Mr. Enuran beamed,
"A remantic" be said approvingly.

"It is admirable? I wish you good fortime, ser!"

Teny thanked him confusedly and paid his bill and departed.

O'UTSIDE, as the spottilly lighted street, he felt mode or less damped has consistence opposition him, bidnight represental, dermanding that he go bar related and get the sideres he had pair refused. East Breadway, with signa in Arabic rith the scattered shop-windows still lighted. Most of the bindings about were dark and allord, and there were

for traffic. The atmosphere was a comppound of the exotic and the common place that did not make for clear thinking. The facts were staggering, too, If the copi in Terr's peeket was weeth twofy thousand dellors, that in intell wais to make him disry. He had never carried when the common the common that the more than a week's aslary in file pocket I at any time, and never that for long.

1 So be rede inprove on a subway train

I it say time, and never that for long.

'So be rode updown on a subway train
d which had come from Atlantic Avenue,
e Broublys, and would go updown only to
to Times Square. At Times Square he
changed trains like a sleep-walker and
g went further uptown thill. He was lest
in excited, dazabed appositation which

ng weat further uptown still. He was lest he in excited, dazoled apsculation which sold hardy let him netice his surroundings. I's He had come up from the subway exit and was welfing boward his ledging when he realized he'd horn too arithand

JOURNEY TO BARKET to est the skinkhebsh be'd paid for. He conscience had been reduced to the point

come to a dincr, and was still toners He automatically flipped the coin. It came heads. He went into the direct The man at the stool next to him got up and went out. He left a paper that he'd it. Tony thruftily retrieved it while waiting for his hamburger and coffee. Then a thrill went all the way down his backbone and he nearly choked. The naper

On the way uptown Tony'd had a bitter argument with his infuriated conscience. He'd insisted defensively that if an importer of dates and dried flor and rurs in Ispahan could find profit in a lourney to Barkut, why couldn't an upand-coming young American do even better? Tory was no hosiness man, but he'd been trained to believe that arobody who did not desire above all things thing wrong with him. So he'd been in-

trie refrigerators, nylon-stockings, fertilizer, linstick and bubble cum was bir life's ambition, and this was his chance' But actually, his mind had kent alipping off sidewise to visions of white-walled cities under a blazing sun, and of histrops, eved alaya, eirls and exceptable cargyans winding over desert wastes. It was in a honeless confusion of such

images that he left the diner and went to his room, clutching Racino Form fast, its own world, it would abviously work He set on till lone nest midnight, finping the coin and charting out a crucial test of its virtues. He dreamed chaotically all night, and when morning came he awake with common-sense-i.e. his

corneignes -- regiling hom hittarly for his plans. But he would not be shamed out of them. His conscience grew strident and then almost hysterical, he sneaked out racetrack with his bat pulled down over his forehead. When he put down the first two dollars at the betting window his

remarks. refusing a chance to sell a crazy luck-riece for two thousand dollars so he could use it to guide him in making two-dollar beta! A home named sively. Temperow would be Black Friauthorised day off!

two Then Occured read off Then in order, Shrotream, and Muse Inflation. and Quis Kid, and Armageddon . . . and the daily double. . . . Tony rode back to town in a sect of stunned comparure. He had a triffe-a few bundred-more than eleven thousand dollars in his pocket. His constirnes told him with lev disammyal

that it had all been coincidence, and that now the proper thing for him to do was put that eleven thousand dollars in good, conservative necurities, and never so So Tony went up to his room, and packed in feverish baste while his conscience varamered at him in mauriting agitation, and paid his recoming-house , bill and went out and flagged a taxi cane-was upon him. In the taxi he armed with semilars, and of camel- flipped the coin to see where he should head in order to take the coin nearer to Rarket. If there was a mysterious attraction trying to pull the coin back to

> eidences that would take it home. And if samebody was letting it guide him by flipping it for heads and tails. . . . Well, there was eleven thousand doi-

lars to make the theory seem likely. A couple of weeks later Tony considered the theory proved. At that time be had reached, he was fairly sure, a

place well off any imaginable map of the of the house with a hang-dog air as if to world he had been born in. He stood on a sandy beach with blue see to his left

and desert on all other sides. A middleaixed whirlwind or sand-devil soun meditatively in one place a quarter-rile 18 STARTLD away, seeming to watch. Tony had one desert Arab, very much

Tony had one desert Arab, very much unwashed, squirming moder his right foot, and two other equally unwashed accomplete coming furnously at him which spears from right and left. At this moment be thought irrelevantly, but not at all regretfully, of the tossings of the coie that had been his isources.

coin that had begun his journey.

He did not have time for philosophusing, however. So he swung the long, curved stimitar in his hand, pelled his helted-in-the-back topecat out of the way with his left hand, and faced his would-be assassins.

II
T COULD have been a very happy
journey—up to the unwashed scoundrels,
at beast—but Tony's conscience had

tried to spoil everything. It spoke with an inflection very much like-the maiden sent whe'd roused him. Tony would get into trouble, said his conscience gloomily, for slipping off without a newmort. and actually bribing somebody to help him do it. He should have paid the inlars and put the rest in gilt-edged bonds He should not have flown across the South Atlantas in a plane of such antiouity, to a flying-field in Tonisia instead have been arrested for not having proper paners. He should not have slucord the Traision conterns official who was planning to arrest him saybow, even through the coin had blithely come heads. when tossed for the decision. 'And certainly, having done so, he should not have tucked a hundred-dollar boll in offcis/dom's fineers for the man to find when he came to. To be sure therefficial had pocketed the bill and kept his mouth " shot, but fifty would have been enough.

After all, where was morio-mency coming from when this was agos, and what roy gaining in exchange for yearth in final simily for propwards cash! So ago Tory's opracionee, which was a horn Killow. He inserred it as much as a shorn Killow. He inserred it as much as

he could. It was exhibitating to dodge regularizes and red tape after a briefine subject to them. His conscience said aggrievedly that he was now a falso and would presently be confined in a juil with permittee sanitary arrangements. Tony's middle neat, who had formed his conscience, had been hell on sanitation.

But Trovy gaid us beed. He agent means alwidth and get in return things means alwidth and get in return things sun testing on the sheet. Often a beer sun testing on the sheet. Often a beer when the wind blow adds her voil. The when the wind blow adds her voil. The when the wind blow adds her voil. The substances of the state of the state of the when sufficiently diluted it was delection.—and that proposes time near the black tried to rob him in the beasar at the contract of the substantial of the black tried to rob him in the beasar at Sankim on the Rod Sea and Yang grandnast necebants who had meanly to rob try in a satisfar manner. Afterward,

and interpreter. The coin came heads

These things gave him astisfactions

not to be obtained from the actions any

proved by emmoneness and the code of conduct a ruph-thinking young future conducts in the conduct of the code conducts are the code of the code conducts and the code of the code that the code of the code of the code that the code of the code of the code being accept that it would be unexpected, heaving the code of the code of the code of the being accept that it would be unexpected, heaving that the code of the document of the code of the code of the and letter—this was the odd part—and seasonized just than he had over looked to the code of the code of the code of the this containers gradyingly cancel of

JOURNEY TO BARKUT of heads and tails over a reasonable and some tails. If it actually had a bomperiod of time. The laws of change were

not broken by an excess of heads, or tails, or excessively long runs of either, There could be absolutely no guarantee that Tony's travels were guided by anything but nurest arbitrary change. But his journeying was convincingly direct, when he plotted it on a man. He'd curre se straight as transportation facilities would allow to Suskim on the Red Sea. CUAKIM is and always will be a hot S and sleepy and odorous town full of

Arabs, Tamille, Somalis, and other persons who regard non-Moxlems their official rulers metaded-as the destined and legitimate prey of the Farthful. Tony's newly,hired interpreter considered Tony his express and particular nrey. For a time he tried valuantly to collect by wheedling Tony to make purchases on which be-the interpreterwould collect commissions of from fifty to seventy-five per cent. For one long night he waited hopefully for Tony to anore, so that he could rob his baggage.

Then the interpreter's opportunity On the third day of Tony's stay in Spakim-the coin came invariably tails at any suggestion of departure-Tony made some small purchase in the bazzer. He cave an Egyptian pound in payment. In the change there was a small silver only with an inscription is conventionalised Arabo sgript on one ade, and an graste, empty throne on the other. Tony recorded it with apparent calm. He

But Tony slept dreamlessly and silently.

like a child

showed it to his hired thicf "This is a coin of Barkut," he told the men who was itships to rob him. "It is my desire to go to Barkut. Arrange it." where he paid nine prices for his lodging. He spent some time flipping the coin. He had changed a good deal inside as we'll so out, once he'd learned how to grow really stern with his conscience. The coin turned up some heads

made merry, and somewhere a dor barked undignantly in the derimess. That was all, except the sound of the

Within the hour, his interpreter came back to the hotel with voluble assurances that he had envared a bubbil to carry Tony to Barket. It was taking on the last of its cargo now. It would put out into the harbor at sunset, and Torre must beard it secretly during the night because of harbor regulations. Tony packed. He was reasonably well notifited now. He dressed for his lossy. ney in the absolute ultimate of the man. perperiate. He were a noft felt hat, orightly-polished brown shoes, and a camel's-hair topecet with a belt in the back. He slinned a revolver in his rock-

ing instinct, it gave him essential sin-

formation. If everything had been a

matter of chance up to now, and the

series of coincidences between fact and

the heads-and-tails decimens of the coin.

preparations for an over-elaborate sul-

Night fell. Tony dined, as well as the resources of Suakim would nermit, and felt expansive and contented and anticinative. Two hours after dark, his interpreter returned with news that the bankil was out in the harbor and awaited his coming. Teny went down to the water-front of Suakim-a not too captions more in itself, alone and at night. He climbed down a ladder into a small best and placidly let himself be rowed out into the darkness. The night was black, save that stars glowed enormously against a sky like velvet. The, were very romantic indeed. There was wraith of string music where revelers

Presently a dark form loomed ahead. The bubbil was an ungainly shape some seventy or eighty feet long, with the her lateen rig. Tony's interpreter hailed, 30 SYARTLING STORIES A guittural voice replied. The small beat macher small boat manned by a sneakcume alongside the buildf and the interthief, and the crew of the buildf listened

preter steaded it for Tony to step on board. He climbed to the dock. The backel stant glamerously, of rish and pearl-oysters and good-hides and kersens and the and belge-water and humanity. He dock was an impenetrable map of business in the startight. There

dreve a deep broath of completest satisfaction, Ho mored aside to be out of the way.

Then there was an infuriated howl, plus the sound of ears being wearhed at pretent and any other section of the second of the

was capible.

THE bakible crew howled with ram,
which was not righteous indignation
at the witnessing of a theft, but the
mod gratter range of being charted or
mod gratter range of being charted
toom for thereelves. Hen raved up and
down the deck, uttering deep-threated
malidictions at the top of their veices.
Then, forward, the student when the
down the chief. A small best from the
chief. A small best from the
chief. A small best from the
chief. A small best from the
malidical policy of the chief.

soat with Tony's haggare, in it.
Tony stepped eichestely to the stem
and essecured himself against the real,
the got a dispetch eighter and lighted
the got and the stem of the stem
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between cursings to the segmen on the water. Far off, there was a howl of fury, Staff farther, a triumphant yell of derision. The small best of the backlit came back in a thick fog of sulpherous language, Tony's late interpreter evidently having made the shore and gotten away.

with his feet.
The beaty-trew acrombled to the deck.
The heat itself was made fast overside.
There was much unitered tell. Then
men came adden to where Tony smoked
in blood of extrement. They circled him
deliberately. He snapped his characterlighter. Its glow aboved him the utilizacan bearded faces of the beaker's even.

ighter. Its give showed him the villancus bearded faces of the beaker's crew. Hairy chests and ragged garments. Knives gleaming and ready. And the lighter's fame showed them Teery, puffing joyolsly-on a cigaratis, with one hand helding the lighter with the filtering flame, and the other holding a cacked receiver.

There was a pause without words. Then a leuturb's internal-conductionengine caught somewhere. It began to run with a sect of purring row. A harboe-leutuch. A polley-leutuch, probably, ready to investigate the lowle of furyon the harbor's dark waters. If Tenywere numbered here and now, his bodymight have to be sild overboard still unrabled, and even that would be dancerrabled. See the second of the second

rabbol, and even that would be dangercom. More, he night fell noneclocyl fret. The sound of the policy-larish motion. The sound of the policy-larish motion present greated tragently on the sability deck, and the group before Teny nutled. Most substantial to present and spars. The greatlation and root creaking against the skyrest present and parts the skyarcher. Then alowly, slowly, slowly, as active. Then alowly, slowly, slowly as what work hardly estapses of wind off the land, the babbill gathered way. In moved creaking the present and the standard of the In moved creaking the present and the standard of t

launch was at its nearest, Tony tossed

his clearette overboard and blandly



STABILING STORIES surely no intention of taking him to say

had he done, or even tried to do? Even if he unthinkably escaped murder, now, quiries in Sunkim on the probable needucts of Barkot, of the market it mucht offer for imports, or even of the possible profit in import-expert trade! He had thrown away his life, and more,-here Tony's conscience grew acrimonioushe had not made one single move that a

first of all!

BR habbit cleared the harbor. The breeze and her forefoot cut into the swells. Tony smoked contentedly. He reflected that comothing like this untraceoloflity was necessary for a journey graphic surveys. If the area about a who had gone through it, that very search would change it, so that somehow worlds, and so would cease to be a gater way. In ancient days, when news tray, sons were unthought of, there must have account for the wild fables which none believed, nowadays, but which were probably history in some world or other There was probably a brisk trade between places where magic lamps were fundtional devices, and provate places

like the world of Tony's youth. Now -gateways were probably rare and trade almost non-existent. But not quite. He the starlight at the bakhd's stern. He let his imprination run riet in pictures. of white-walled cities under a brazen sky, and camel-cars,vans in slow motion over -he meditated with some interest upon the possibility of lustrops-eved slave-

girls whose sense of duty to their maste panions-if one happened to be the

When the sun rose he was still think causful young executive might set up i Barkut if that land were as uninhibite in the shist-keded restaurant. But about him there was no sign of any next r civilization. The bakkil glided smoothl

needlethic The use year of so improbable but fascinating color. The sky was lapis lamb, and the helphil was sheer archai clamsiness. The heavy, hending boor to crack with the burden of patched can vas and wind which strained it. Th erew was as unsavory a gang of cut throats as ever a director sought in van for a motion-picture. There was not : man who did not easew a builte in white view, and few who had not been liber captain's face looked very like a rough sketch for a crossword suzzle blank. None spoke a word to Tony. All slow ered when he met their eres. The bakki sailed on a course Tony could not deter mine, toward a destination he could not

guess-except that it surely was not Barkut-and there was apparently no

sout on board but himself who snole

English or had any feeling but that of murderous antipathy toward him. He füpped the golden ten-dirhim piece and felt exceeding peace fill all his being Cress,morehore saw the clint of only in the sunshine. If Tony moved from the rail and one of them could get behind him, the result would be final. If he doord, he would wake in another world but not very likely Barkut. His life hurs upon the fact that he had a revolver, and that it might cost lives to kill him. He waited contentedly all through the baktor-hot day for nightfall, quite well swere that with the darkness wone. would take effect to abate the nuisance JOURNEY TO BARKUT

Came the sunsat Glerious reds and golds. The surface of the sea looked like molten sucreate metal. The whiskered villains of the behalfs every prestrated themselves in pleas prayer unto Alah, and then began low-toxed discussions over the meet practical way of inserting sense six or seven inches of steel into

some six or seven inches of steel into Tony's liver.

He beamed. He was alive. This was life and sest and adventure such as he had never known or dreamed of before. His conscience was desputingly silest. Tony would not have changed places with savone on earth.

with sayone on earth.

THE sun aank below the borison. Darkmess seemed to flew over the world
from the berison on every hand. Obscurity blotted out the edge of the world,
and shadews answard and grave consists
and shadews assessed and grave consists.

upon the baldes's deck, and Suhall, the great star, show brightly in a dimening sky. Then it was night.

Men gathered forward. And Tony tossed overboard his twentisth cigarette of the day, and beard it has briefly as it

touched the water. He moved betalty, stiently. The helmenna closed his eyes and sank to the deck. Darkness hid his secrow. He had been the wichin of a nimerate that the same that the same and stellphenhood more pulses on Amsterdam Avenue, while watching Exadelph Scott in the not of a frentler manshall. Tony Fe-pocketed the revolver, hazifol is the trailing mull best does under the

tiller hard over. The hibbrily blashful came heavily up into the wide and hung there. Its latest and flapped crazilly. The hibb carcease, the minaries boom swung over and increased its hock, and then the bashful seemed simply to shiver irresolutely, dead in the water, all way gross. Tony slipped over the attent lates the small beat. He took to care as affected on the care of the control of the

and kim. He might be anywhere along the like African eastern coost, or along either of the conduction of the angular conduction of the con

Then he went took to work, pulling sturdily upwind The booked had scenewhat the selling properties of an ordinary weathsts. Pulling upwind from her, he might propress faster to windownd by manpower than she could by sail. Certainly, come he was boot in the distinces she would never find him again. See this too. After half an heur, Yony

tamity, once he was lost in the darkness the would never find him again.

She did not. After half an heur, Tony Gregg—dad in not! fell hat, highly polished brown abose, and a causal's-hair top-cost belief of in the facek-curled him-saif up on the bottom-boards of the little bost and west constending to akeep. His last conscious thought was a mild wonderment that even this landing-boat had

a pervading aroms of fish, penri-ovaters, gost-hides, bilge-water, kurosene, and the unwashed humanity that occupied it Bumpings awakened him. The boat's keel thumped on a sandy bottom. He corned his ever and saw a colossal, amiably stupid face gazing open-mouthed down at him. He knew immediately that it was an illusion, because it was five feet from ear to ear and definitely un the misty side-a countenance formed in vapor. He closed his eyes vessbately and told himself to wake up. When he opened them again there was naturally nothing in sight but very blue, very clear sky above the sunwale. But the boot bumped

gragin. Tony sat up and saw a sindy shore said a sandy beach and a sandy article of pure biarrenness beyond. There was no surf. Fuirly gentle wares biamped the small boat, and biamped it again, and gradually odged it toward the straind on d which the swells broke in half-hearted feasing.

There was just one really curious feature shout the world he saw. That oddity

STARTLING STORIES was a minor; dark-colored whirlwind-actually a cond-devil-which warehold its way along the beach a hundred varies away. It looked the thought was farel-

ful-rather like the posture, of a drive coming out of a bottle that had been in owned as a small boy. He noted the reperoblance, but of course thought no more of it. For one thing there was no bottle. For enother, this small whirlwind traveled in a wholly natural fashion. It went a couple of hundred wards further and then seemed to stop, spin-

ning in a meditation faction TONY sat at case until the best finally grounded. Then he seized the mament of a recognic ways to stan exercide and walk smartly ashore without wettime more than the sales of his low-out shoes. Safely on land, he was-end almost infinitely alone. There was sen on the one hand, and sand on the other That was all. There was not even a seabird floreing over the waves. Only the

whirling sand-devil remained to break atiliness. It was rather peculiar that it was so durk when whirling above such white sand. It looked rather like smoke. He flipped the ten-dirhim piece. He marphed valuatly along the share in obedience to its decision. He covered half moved inland. It grew taller, as if to keep him in view. Odd. . . .

Then three men on camels came over rarding him. He waved to them. They came toward him, shading their eves to search for possible companions licyond and behind him. But he was notently alone. They gobbled in low tones at one

They came closer and dismounted and remorded him with cat-in-canary-care smiles. They were whiskered, they were dirty, and they were simest certainly verminger. One short and fat fingered a scimitar suggestively. The other two carried spears. The amail whiriwind three men irregred it. Tony filmed the ten-dirkin nice. It glittered goldenly in the sunshine. The expressions of the trip changed from murely eminous greed to resolution. The short man with the scimitar awageered up to Tony. The two others watched with glittering eyes. The short man said something that probably meant "Girnme!" Tony Signed the ten-dirlim mees The man with the stimitar scowled and grabbed. Tony swmer. Hard, to the whickers. He felt a certain naive pride when the whiskered man went flat on his

back wheering in asterialment. He snotched up the scimitar and said sternby to the others: "I'm on my way to Barkut. But I'll clad to pay you. The other two men came for him at a ren. They had very practical spears. manner. They made for him from two

sides, one from the right and one from one against openers. Moreover, Tony found it necessary to keep his foot on the wriggling, wheesing fat man to keep hire still. These were desert Araba-Bedeum-to whom the possession of goods is a sign of look but by no means body has semething they want and they a mile. The whirlwind persisted. It - can with reasonable safety take it, they do so, rejeicing.

Tony learned this fact later. At the . moment he was only aware that they mount definitely to Vill him for the tondirhim viece whose glint in the sunshine had reused their cumifity. They were remote from all law or other reasons for restraint. The apearmen plunged for him, eyes intent. Tony thought in one mesterpiece of irrelevant reflection, of the moment when he had begun this journey by flipping a coin. But still be " would not have changed places with any-

He took action. It was pure instinct. The scimiter in his hand had a cond deal of the feel of a slightly beavy trumsmoved restlessly, half a mile away. The recornet. It even balanced like a rangest.

Tony swung the scirrotar as for a neat back-hand return-volley stroke The head of the spear sprang off. Quickly be turned and with the scimitar served a fast though imaginary ball straight over the net. He followed through. The secand spearman got in the way. They still followed through. He saw his virtim with unforgettable clarity-pure, bearded villainy, with one eye and a swordsold nose Then the semitor landed The result was colorful-meetly red-and unopertionably lethal. Triny wanted to be sick, and to avoid it he turned on his two remaining fees. The abort fat man was on his fast new still wiscoring. The spearman looked dazed. They ran, Tony They hended at first straight for the

almost warily test as it obligingly start. ed to get out of their way. They van-Tony stopped, panting He went back to the scene of the conflict. He carefully did not look at the man he'd hit with the arimitar. There were three cornels, still kneeling. Tony wanted to get away from there." He sethered two of them to the third, and mounted that one. Nothing The camel, offensively chesting a region ing cud, got up hind-end first, and Tony nearly fell off. Then it resignedly becau-

whirlwind, but then swerved around it.

ished over sandhills

to move in some indefinite direction: The other two camela followed docilely. The whirlwind moved companionably along with them-never very near, but pever quite out of sight. At times it was a mule away and of respectable size. Sometimes it was only a counte of hundred so whose the first box box To shrey thirty feet high. But it followed nor sistently, rather like an interested stray dog following a man whose small fasemates at. Hours later-many bours later-a

whitespilled city appeared in the distance. Date-grows surrounded it. There more minorate within the well and a

How to buy better work clothes

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STARTLING STORIES lary structure comparable for beauty of less dreamily at the slave-girl 65ail's

design to the Toy Mobal-egly the Tail Mahal is a temb. A samel-caravan moved for some place of mystery on beyond.

ful. It stretched unward and unwardagain as if to keen Tony in sight-until it was merely the most tempous of mist-

Inesses. That was when he was almost at the case of the easis. Then it wasished suddenly, as if it had collapsed. Your Green rade up to the nearest city gate and slid down his camel's off fore-log, which stank. Soldiers in tur-

bans and alippers and carrying flint-look musicets looked at him in lively suspieith. He essayed to speak They essayed to speak. Then they all stared. Presentarm and led him through the city streets.

The smells and sights and sounds his encountered were those of a dream-city . -- though the smells were not altoesther those of a pretty dream. There were flat-topped frouses and velled women and proud camels and boarded men. There were barred, narrow windows and metalstudded doors, and projecting upper storeys to the houses which leaned out above the parrow streets and pearly

blotted out the sky The two soldiers led Tury, thrilled and satisfied, into a dark doorway. They released him. They stenged back. There was a conclusive cisus. And Tony saw that the doceway was completely filled by a grille of very solid and very heavy grim iron bers, through which he and the soldiers blinked at such other. He

was in a prison. He was in a partially ones, air dungroon. He was in fact in the This was the manner of his arrival in .

Bagicut.

HREE weeks later, in mid-morning. of the courtvard and looked more or lot of them was on display. They were slim, as a stri's less opent to be, and they flared just the right amount at imp the right place below them, and word down to very nice ankles, and below them to small have feet-were dusty at the moment-one of which tapped ominously on the floor of the courtyard. He was still kent behind a locked iven grate. technically, imprisoned, and his conactionee had had a awell time pointing out to him how completely irresponsible and tions had been. He was, however, unworried extent over the reaction that

legs. She had note logs, and ruther o

tarmone foot washt pressure At first, of course, he'd been totally unable to speak Arabac, and nobody in Barkut seemed to be able to speak Rogish. He'd tried to communicate from

his original prison cell with the help of a ond-hand in Sues. The vocabulary it offered however, was limited. It gave the phrases for complaining that prices were too high, that the food was overripe, and that the speaker wanted to go back to his hotel. But in Barkut Tony had been sharged nothing, the food was good if menetoneus-though fresh ripe dates had been a revelation to him-and he was in joil and had no hotel. After two days of this upsatisfactory conversation, he'd been moved to a convenient cell-and-courtyard in the palace. He'd been inspected by various whiskered people he thought were officials, and then the slave-rirl Ghail had appeared

to talk. That was the way she undoubtedly looked at it. Tony was presumably an adult male, but he bubbled only a few Arabic words, and those with a vile accent. The slave-out had settled down to the Job with something like a second She had an imperial carriage, which Tony recalled vaccorly could be exedited to the carriage of burdens on her head as a JOURNEY TO BARKUT 27 child. She was long-legged and lissome which Tony replied that he wouldn't

Mattern had progressed nicely in three weeks, and Tony found himself spanished of a talent for inaguages. But now she tapped her foot omnowaly on the foor of his confectable prison. She said, in mescond calm: Tony spake apologatically. But he was pleased with the fibercy he displayed in the Arabic abs-had taught his

and had an air of firm competence, and

he knew she was a slave-oriel herance

married women and the marriagrable

-if at all-only when swathed in volu-

minous robes and with wells which com-

plied with the strictest of Mosley tradi-

tions. This girl Ghall was not swithed

to speak of, and she was not veiled at all.

and she was distinctly pretty and very

far from shapeless. And she regarded Tony with a scowling disparagement

which made him work carnestly to learn

the Arabic ahe-had taught him.

"I wanted to know."

"I wanted to know."

"I wanted to know."

"I wanted to know."

"And just why dol you want to know the property that you want to walor in the property that you wanted the girt.

"Soomer or hars," explained Toxy, trying hard to be convincing, "I shall be questioned by the rollers of this place. I think that to why you have been set to troop and the property of the property of the property of the property of the place.

my thought that then—Alish permitting—I would purchase you from your owner." The slave-girl's foot tapped more forbideingly still "And for what purpose," she demanded selly, "would you wish to purchase me?"

manded felly, "would you wish to purchase me?"

TONY looked at her in pained arterishment. His conscience mentioned acidly that this conversation was not only improper but indiscreet. A brisk wante executive would never ... To science bugs a heated rejoinder, he cut
fasheet.
"Truly," said Tony in false picty,
"scoedooly has undoubtedly said that
"conclooly has undoubtedly said that
"conclooly has undoubtedly said that
that that if there is not now woman more
darkable than all size, he is not herman."
His Araboc was sell shetchy, but he
put it over. The gur'ts gree, however, instead of warming, burned anguly,
"All too haman." sellmitted Tony.
"All too haman."

have much fun, then. When his con-

"relate ties?"

She stood up in queenly indignation. She smided—but painfully and with exempt, this sensence speaking to a half-wit or worse.

"You came across the desert from the sea," she said tolerantly, "riding one came in the seas," she said tolerantly, "riding one came and isseing two obtern. But an hour before your-coming, use of the without of the city walk had seen in.

dijes in the desort. When you came, on stupid that you could not even apeak the language of humans, do you think we did not know you for relate you are not a dysself. "A dijest?" and Tony blankly. The word was one of the very few—alcohol own smother—which would be the asme those streatures of the Thomand and One Nights?

One Nights?" "Of history, yea." Ghail's tene was blingly seconds! "And if we had doubted, within the heur there came a doubted, within the heur there came a grow that year to be a second of the second of your taking life form of a bale of rich silk, torn open upon the back of the sek. When he and his compositions alighted from their exames to gather up the first second of the sek. The The sek.

garbed and ran swaftly to their camels and flogged them away faster than the men could follow. The man demanded his causels, and they were those you brought to the gates of the city. So they were wielded to him. Do you deay now STARTLING STORES

that you are of the dyins?"

Tony resultered, hand. A one-eyed man with a swood-silf zone? That we show the same he had allied, sheek at the sea-shore! Ried been trying hard to forget so extended though if he'd ever had worling over with a sermitar, that can would have been the one. But-he could not have come and demanded to examine! It was not possible! Tony had left him an exceedingly meany objects the country of the cou

any nort of sugar. He availowed again, very gale.

"You could not speak our human language." (Sail was tolerant, and scorrful, and senseed. "So I surgle it to year full part of the sugar of the sugar of the because come of you dyine are willing to be traiters to your race. Petriana you are result to make such a bragan. But it is incodence for one of the dyine to I so incodence for one of the dyine to Even Teety tensessee you attanted.

more

"L-dook!" he said desperately. "In my world, dyisms are—only fables! What do they look like!"

"When the watcher on the city wall saw you on the desert, yes had the form of a whithwind. Why not? Is not that the way in which you trave!"

TONY smallowed yet again. His conactione had made a quick recovery, Now it began to any something possely antified about now look what a journ had antified about now look what a journ had at the property of the property of the mentic thoughts about an lidic girt who believed in Imaginary creatures like dipines and effected. But Tony shull it upto the new implications of the theory of before. What is true im one world is not reconstrict true in another. What is fable in one world, also, is not invaritly fable in noother, actually, if there shall provide a contraction of the co

true somewhere. Anything!

And he recombered—and flached at termshering—his impression of a huge, vaporous, open-mouthed face which had been footing down at him in the small best which had which had been footing down at him in the small best which which had been filled flack that the wind, which had beloed like dark smoke in spite of the fact that it was whitten over white sand. It had kept pase with him as he went to meet the Bedonius and their attempt to kill him. It had have seed interesticily now during that one will be the same the same than the same

He galped sadility. The inference was crear—but if this was a world in which drises were real, then craziness was some. And then something else occurred to him.
"How long after my arrival did the one-cred man come to cisies the camels," he demanded. The stave-girl shrugged. "One hour. No more. That was why we were sam."

"And the camels were stolen by the seashore."
"You stole them! They were stolen by "the sea."
"It reaveled some hours by camel," said Tony granly. "He must have followed

their footprints in the sand—if he know where to deceand them. So he traveled as far on foot as I did on carnel-back—if he tells the truits! But it sook me fire lower to reach the city from the sea on carnel-back. Yet he mude the journey on foot in only one hour move. How fast does not conseque man would. As fast as a cannel, even trailing?\*

The girl Chail stared at him. Her face went black. It was a fire-hour journey from the sat to the city, She'knew it as well as Tony. That was by camel. On foot it would take a man ten hours or better. If the occa-syed man had trailed the carnels, he could not possibly have arrived no soon. Not possibly.

is arrived so soon. For positing,

"it" "A whirly sind followed me all the way,"

"et asid Tony, availouing, "And—4 killed a

ten even man with a silt nose as he and

two communions tried to rob me. Some-

that barred gateway, with full freedom of the three camela semetimes doubles

His conscience was strickenly silent. ser hare feet and anapped a number of arabic words abe had pever taught lony. They crackled. They sparked. They seemed to have blue fire around he edges.

"The misbegotten!" she cried furiousv. "The accurated of Allah! From his own mouth came the proof that he lied! And we saw it not! He was the drinn! to his made mock of the windom of nen! How he will hugh, said all his

She turned upon Tony. "And .vonyou are as steered as the different Way tid you rever ask about your camela?" She paged suspiciously. "But-were they samels? Perhans they also were

frimme! Perhans It is all a trick! You may be another drived This might be-Tony throw mer his hands, "In rev world," he said belplessly, "drives are fables." "Your world?" snapped the girl, "How

many worlds did Allah make? And if different term follow when in the throng of "On the color," asked Tony as helplessly as before

She stamped her foot once more, "On the coins and in the palace! What sort of fool are you? You say you are human? Will you drink of the feet plant?" She fairly blazed scorn at him; scorn

and vexation and at least the beginning of hewilderment. Tony trust to placate "If last is not something spelled backwards with added vitamins, and if other humans drink it, I have no objection at

She sumped to her feet and hurned to the barrod gateway of the courtyard adinjuing his cell. She spake imperiously through the bars. Even a slave-girl can be immerious to other slaves, on occasion And there was always somebody passing

to look in. Tony had chafed at the factand been represched by his conscience for chafing-when Ghail first began her daily lessons in Arabor. Lately he had become resigned. But he still wished stubbornly that things were different She came back with a polished brast carefully, as if its contents might be doubtful and then offered it to Tony. "This is leaf," she said sternly. "It is

proposed to the dilege. If you drink Tony drank it. From the expression on her fore it seemed to be an artism. of extraordinary importance. He was tempted to make, a flourish, but made a face instead. It was not wholly had B had a faintly remnisonat flavor, as of

asserthing he had drunk hefree B. tasted a little like some of the berb teas his maider sunt had dosed him with as a child. From experience he knew that the flavor would last. He would keen testing it all day, and it ought to be good for something or other, but he could not

"I wouldn't say," he remarked," that it would be a popular soft drink back

HE girl Ghail stared at him in seeming stupefaction. Then, as he regarded her expectantly, she spidenly began to flash. The red came into her cheeks and spread to her temples, and then ran

down her throat. He followed its further spread with interest. When it had reached her less she shruptly run to flerucly. Soldiers with whiskers and flintlock muckets appeared instantly, as if they had been kept posted out of hight

created by Tony Gregg. They let her out scowline at him.

for an emergency which could only be He sat down and breathed deeply, star-

TLING STORIES on- gling black thing, its outlines miste

ing at the stone wall of his discovercourtyard. She'd believed him a diles, eh? Diffens were creatures of Arabum mythology. They were able to take say form, and sometimes were doomed to ing a talismen anch as a magic ring or lamp. At other times they could soare the nants off of even a True Reliever not no equipmed. They kidnenned princenses whom the heroes of the Arabian Nights unfailingly rescued, and they fought wars among themselves, and they were not oute the same as efreets who were always repolate, while drives might take the form of very personable humans. They were also not quite so dread-

ful as phale-from which the English

kuman fiesh.

There was a wooden banch against the wall, at which Tony stared abstractedy. He became aware that it was oscillating agoint. It humough this way, and that, and just as the oddity of its behavior really caught his attention, the bench fell over. It turnived sidewise with a heavy "turnip" to the hard-haled sky floor.

Tony looked startled. Then he got up and want over to the beach. At a monomit has a start of the beach. At a monomit has a start of the beach. At a monomit has a start of the beach. At a monomit has a start of the beach.

gesting ghosts was practically grossic. He examined the overturned object. There was a minor quivering of the wood as he touched it. He fort almost such as the same of the same and the same mentally that he rated in a perfectly normal manner. He was notunily to denot to do anything does. The gainer for the bring the brinchested (day—a heeting lying on the brinchested (day—a heeting lying the brinchested (day—a heeting lying the lying lyin

dagost to de anything clae. The quivering of the beach stopped. He awa a long on the hard-basical clay—a heatle, lying on the hard-basical clay—a heatle, lying on the hard-basical clay—in the clay as if the full weight of the beach had threat it down which combining it. It is down which combining it. It is when weight of the beach had threat it down which combined in the way instance to bother about a long on the ground—
But as he looked down as the wrig-

A little dustiness appeared in midedown by the fleor. Then Tony Grego hair atood up straight on end, so along by that its sourced but each appeared is about the control of the straight of the sourced of the control of the control And a tiny whiteled appeared, at Yose until it was his own height or mabe a little more, and then an emislabe be unintelligent female face appeared the top of it. The face was two it the top of it. The face was two

whatever, to beauty. It beamed at his and said: "Sh-h-h-h-h" Tony said:

"High?"

"Figure is danger for me here," sai the female face, bearing, "I have hidde here for days. I was—" at grigled-what beefe under the broch. Befor that I was a fly on the wall. My nam is Nazim. Please do not tell that I ar

contentedly moronic face with no clair

TONY guiped. He elemented his hand and starred at the wait of dust on the courtyard floor. It tapered down practically to a point where he had seen the bug pressed in the slay, but at his own chougher-height it was almost a year across. His as embogated, unsubstantia too with the court of the country and the same of the same which country had to the same than the same than the same three than the same than the same than the same three than the same than the same than the same three than the same than

its point of support.
"You are—"Tony gulped "n—djine!"
"I am a djinece," said the beaming
face, coyly.

The fine regarded him acutimentally it sighed gustily.
"Do I frighten you in this abupe?" is asked, even more copyly than before "Would you like to see me in human

Tony made an inarticulate noise. The face atop the whirtwind giggled. The most thickened. Substance seemed to flow upward into it from the ground. A barman form appeared in increasing substantislity in the mist. The round face size and proportion on the materialisms human fours. Tony's mouth dropped open. He abruptly ceased to disbelieve

in the existence of drinns. He was prenered to concede also the existence of efrects, obele, leprechause, ha'nts, Big Chief Bowlers the spirit control and practically saything anybody cared to mention. Because from the small whirl-

wind a convincingly beman female-form had condensed-

The pink-skinned, rather pudgy, quite unclothed figure cast a look of arch coyness upon Tony. "Do you prefer me as a human woman?" saked the figure, giggling, "I would

like for you to like me . . . Teny cought his breath with difficulty. "Why er yes of course. But und in case somehody looks in the gate, hadn't you better put some clothes on?"

The different who called harself Nosin looked down at her human body and said

placially. "Oh. I forgot." then there was a danking at the gate. and then a hosel of fore, and a flint-leek musket becomed thunderously in the confined space of the courtward. The pinkskinned, pagedy female form sormed to rush outward in all directions. There was a rearing of wind. A dark whirlwind, giggling excitedly, sped upward and fled away. Even in flight, and in the

form of a whirlwind, it looked somehow rotund and it looked somehow senti-Then Tony was almost trampled down by haif-a-dozen soldiers with barry which banged and smoked futilely at the vanishing natch of amole in the sky. And there was a fat man with a purpledved heard, and there was Chall, the slave-girl, with a good deal more clothes on than before. She looked at Tony with

"Now," said Ghall emineusly, "would

you tell me the meaning of the driven house without any ciothes on in the Tony's conscience caught its breath, and began to express its highly unfavorable opinion of things in superal, and of Tony in particular.

very palace of Barkut?"

JOURNEY TO BARKUT

NY GREGG'S corneience as has been noted, was the creation of the Having no more normal outlet for the creative instinct, she had labored over Tony's conscience. And following a cele-

brated precedent, she made it in her own image. In consequence, Tony often had a rather bad time. That night his conscience, which anguish beside his bed, gave him the works. Horrible! Horrible! said has conecsence. Here it had sport the best part of his life trying to make him into a normon who in thirty or forty years of devetion, scrupulous attention to his duties, and a virtoous and proper life. would attain to the status of a brink young executive. Tony's conscience conveniently ignored the fact that after thirty or forty years of virtue and agrasulesity. Tony would neither be young nor brisk. And what had Tony done? demanded his conscience bitterly. He had won more than eleven thousand dollars in the low and disreputable practise of betting on harse,mees. But had be invested that windfell in gilt-edged tecarities? He had not. He'd come on a

wild-grose chase across half the world, to array at this completely immoral and atterly preposterous place of Barkut? He had spent three weeks in tail! His conscience metaphorically wrung Its hands. And now-now a slave-girl who showed her less aroused his amorous fancy. Worse, a temale dyian with no modesty whatever-Torry vaccount, He felt somewhat ar-

changive about the drivnes who said her name was Nasim, but he was corSTARTLING STORIES

tainly not alliged. He was even almost grateful, because the slave-rirl Ghail not feel over the misdeods of a man she cares nothing about. And Tony felt a very warm approval of Ghail. It was not

only that she had rice legs. Oh, definiteby not! He arenoused of many other things about her. And besides, she was a nice person. She treated him like an veyed as a possible date, or a possible husband if nothing better farned up, but He turned over in hed. He was no longer in his cell, but in something like

a bridal or royal auite in the balace. It was so know that he felt a hit lengty. The ceiling of his bedroom was all of twenty feet tall, and arched, with those aculptured icicles be had seen in pictures of the Albambra in Smin. The floor was of cool morble tiles with room here and there. The bod stself was hardly more than a pallet upon a stand of black wood ornamented in what certainly looked like rold. The coverings were silk. There was a sitcher of some cooling drink by his elbow, and if he polled a silken bullcord a slave-male-would come in and

His position in Barkut had challend remarkably during the day. At the moment of the excitement over Naum. Chall had brought a chamberlain with a purple-dyed beard to explain that-his had been believed a diffus, clad in human form for subversive political activity within the city. Since he warn't a dilieu -and drinking the jest proved without

had told the girl Ghall that when he favor and rich, the rulers were naturally anxious to know what he had to offer in exchange for fewer and riches Alsothe slave-girl put this in a bit sullenly

wanted also to know what that impor-Tony had been led to a great hall with podiscal figures in brass haid flush in the black-marble floor. The throne of Barkut stood beneath its canopy against the far wall. It was empty. There were hix ancient men seated on rugs before it, smokindividual human being, and during all- ing water-gipes. They smoked and courbed and wheened and looked unanimotaly crabbed and old and ineffective. But their red-rimmed even inspected the

that the divine also attached great im-

portance to him. So the rulers of Barkut

so he felt that there was some life some-They greated him with fussy noliteness and had him sit and then wheesingly asked him who he was and where he the shooting was about.

THE slave-girl Ghail intervened before he could suswer. She explained that be had crossed the furthest occur on a great flying hird. Tony had told her as much, lacking an exact Arabic term for

a transatiantic plans or even for a converted four-motored bomber. He had traveled farther, Ghail added, in a boat of steel with fire in its innards. This was a repetition of Tony's description of the somewhat decrept steamer from Sucz to Spairing. And these things Gheil soud firmly, she had believed to be lies from a more than usually stured diese, but since Tony was no dries but a human, who was inexplicably sought after by the local diffus kine, she believed them The six councilors smoked and coughed and made other elderly nesses. Tony

opened his mouth to speak, and again the slave-rirl forestalled him. In his bome land, said Ghail truculentby Tony was of a rook second to name This was her interpretation of his atternot to explain that pobody in America a citizen. He was a prince, Ghall cishor-

ed to see the popples of the earth-en rinces. His people had so subdued the iten that they, though only humans, sie in the air with ease and safety, ad apake to each other privately though thousand miles apart, and traveled in ersonal vehicles with the power of forty od fifty and a hundred korses, and were

rightfer in war than any other people nder the sun. These statements also Tony had made the course of his language lessons. He ad thought Ghall impressed then and he was not an easy person to awe; and ow she repeated them parrot-like, with belliouseet air, on if during anybody p operation them. In short, she said, he side of Barkut he would be dangerus to the drive. On the side of the driven ried to allure him by the charms of a

diamen-he would be dangerous to Barat. Therefore he should either be sepred'as an ally of Barkut, or else exut to help the drive. Tony said feebly, "But-" "Did you not tell me that you were in he greatest of all wars?" Ghail denanded. "In which millions of humans

seen killed? Did you not say that your sation ended the war by destroying cities astantly, in flame botter than the hotest fire? Tony had unquestionably mention storeic borobs. He had also said that he was in the war. He had not mentioned

that he spent it at a typewriter-betaune, of course, Ghail would not know "So you." said the slave-girl firmly, "will swear by the board of the Prophet over the disea-or dise-" -

ULTIMATELY he swore, gloomity and at length, on a book with a binding of marvelously ornamented richness was a Koran, and he had never read it

ed, journeying in quest of adventure and did not believe its contents. More, he did not know what sort of heard the Pronhet had affected, so it could not be said that there was a meeting of minds. and possibly the contract was not really valid. But he felt an obligation, never-

Late that night, unable to sleep, it recurred. The succept men of the Council their confidence out of the direness of their need. The slave-riri Chail counted turn to. The danger to Barkut from the dilius, he suthered was extreme. The plant last was a partial protection against the diffan, but bullets merely

more difficult to come by, and the drive grew holder and holder as the humans in Burkut ran into the technological difficulties inherent in a shortage of last. Four years son, the king of the local drive fied, in person, kidnepped the



STARTLING STORIES

suthertie queen of Barkut and new held her prisoner. Hesce the simply throus and the Council of Regents. For serio vision not dear to Tooy, the paler of vision not dear to Tooy, the paler of a diven, though the subject was not no fertunits. Therefore the Queen's only sufferings were imprisonment and the ardent courthing of the dyines kind. Still ...

Lying waterful in teed in the reyeal suite of the polese, Freey surveyed this statement of the situation with distress. It scanneds using and improbable, the something out of the Arabian Nighta. It was, the purchase of a tree-distring rigore in an artigue-shop on West 45th Street, New York, it was no prependerson that he pinched himself for assurance that the pinched himself for assurance that the pinched himself for assurance that the

devil. He rathed it, acording. Then he heard a third on the windows ill of his heard a third on the windows ill of his heard a third on the distance of the He went to the window. Nyhônga. It looked out upon a small garden, there to pleane the occupants of this suite. There were grass and shrubkery and assailt trees and a fountain gaing in the startight. It smolled inviting. Beyond tay the paisor, and beyond that the thirt, and beyond that the easte and the deart, the dearth of the dearth of the starting of the starting that the same of the approximation of the starting.

hold of the driven beyond the desert. His conscience wrung its hands. In the fix he was in, to be thinking about dresss and cantive opens and such tenatic items! How about those fine plans for an import-export business between Barkut and New York? What had he hearward about the commercial products of Barkut? What was the nossible market for American goods? If he went, with no more than he now knew, to an establighed firm in New York to get them to take up the matter, what information could be give them that would fustify them in offering him an executive nesttion? Why, if he'd only confined his attention to proper subjects like exports and imports instead of trying to rose the romatch interest of a long-legge slave-girl, nobody would ever his buggit of saling alm to lead an army-Rabbing his-leg where it hurt, by gazed out into the garden and ruded thrust his conscience saide. That garde looked recombine in the starfight. If wouldn't mind bring out there right nowith Girls.

Something stirred on the windown? almost beside his hand. He started, anin starting diviodend one of the sof sillers cushions that seem sourcesterabout this pince. It fell to the floor. He sow a tiny dark shope on the all like a from He groped for a three to swat it with, and it tumped smartly sinte the room. It was a frog. He could tell by the way it jumped . . . but it landed on tile cushion with a wheeking, smacking "thud" such as no free should make. It seconded like a recepte of brandred pounds of steel mashing a pillow flat and bang ing against the floor beneath. The reliew in fact, burst under the immed Street particles of stuffing flew here and there The free disappeared within, From the interior of the burst cushion came explosive awearing in a deep beau voice.

Then the solid silken essering inflated

and burst apew, and a swiring luminous

tially human form. It had the most muschbound arms and shoulders he had ever soon, however, and a cheart life a wine cask, and a wreteler's knottly legs. Its head and face were of normal size, but it took as effect whitever to reslane that the features were those of a dyes. The standing, freed syes, the white tunkes grojecting slightly from between the lags, the painted earn-at was a distan, and right, and a dynom as a terrible teamling, the paint and a dynom as a terrible team.

straige prince who came, across the desert!" Teny awallowed. The creature revealed additional

inches of task.

JOURNEY TO BARKUT "You are that creature that more drive howled londer, and let go. There human, who ensuared the love of Nasim the jewel among djewees." It pounded

its chest; which resounded like a tyrnromi, "Know, mortal, that I'am Re-Soult her betrethed! I have come to tear you limb from limb!" ONY'S conscience said acidly that it

I had told him so. He was not aware of any other mental process. He simply stared, corn-mosthed. And the drives leaned on him with ineredible artitly

Sinewy, cirresistable powerful hands seized his throat. They tightened, and

then relaxed as the dyese said gloating-"You shall die slowly!" Then the hands tightened again, bit

atic exercise greater than that of punching buttons in an automat restaurant. It was hardly adequate recognition for a knock-down, drag-out with a drive. He clayed at the strangling hands with

complete futility. Then a strange culmness came to him. Perhaps it was resignation. Possible it was a harking anbelief in the reality of his experiences, somewhere in the back of his mind. But being strangled, even if it were illusion, was extremely properfortable. He retraining he had received before being assigned to sit at a typewriter for the glory of his country's flag. An axiom of

that training was that nobody can strangle you if you only keep your-head. All you have to do-Tony did it. Recome being strangled

is reinful. . He reached up with both hands, and

in each hand took one-just one-of the dimer's vinewy feature. One templets human hand is stronger than the single finger of even a decay. Tony peeled the single finings ruthlessly backward. Some-

thing snapped ambulance. Tony hastily repeated the process. Something else eracked. The

were dim shoutings, and rushings in the corridors of the palace. But Tony remained alone, ensuine for breath, in the high-reilinged room with this greature of Nasim. By now Yony remembered a pudgy human figure which and seemed

exclusively nink skin. Fa.Sonic swelled to the size of an elephant, beating his Tony coughed. His throat hurt. He coughed again, rackingly.

The monstrous, and new unhuman, figure succeed. The blast of air practically knocked Tony off his feet. Then

Es-Souk uttered ories which were suddealy bellowings of terror. He succeed again, and the silken bed-sheets flapped erasily to the far corners of the room, Then the driver's figure melted swiftle into a dark whirlwind which roured

through the window. There were poundings on the door, but Tony road no attention to there. He recled to the window and stared out. A shape fied in penic among the stars, but the stars were very bright. It showed. The whirlwind which was the

diffus Es-Souk fied in mortal terror-or perhaps immortal terror-from the And as it fied, it possed and underwent a truly terrific convulsion. Lightnings fisched in it. Thunder roored in it. The whole sky and the countryside were When a whirlwind speezes, the results

## age impressive.

ONY was wakened by the firing of eamon. His heart asnk, An attack of

some sect upon the city of Barkut? His conscience expressed bitter satisfaction at the possible impending consequences the carnon-shots. They were fired at

science's advice. But Tony listened to

regular intervals. Which might mean a salute, or might mean something of a or remonial nature, but certainly didn't mean gins being somed and fired as fast as they here on their tarsetts.

He got out of bed and dressed. He had folded his trousers carefully and pat them under the mattress of his bed. The result would not have satisfied him in New York, but here he had the nearest

result would not have satisfied him in New York, but here he had the nearest approach to a crease in his pants he'd had since his serival. He put them on, He felt better. He begue to tuck in his

and since his arrival. He put them on. He felt better. He began to tuck in his shirt-table. The observed the test in the shirt-table. The observed his beneathfast, evicently. Two dark-channed above carried a gignatic sincer platter on which was pilot the better part of a reacted sheep. Fruit. Coffee. Bread, whole was in thin. Besilhe, doughly shoots more suited for the wrapping of jucktages thin the main-

flexible, doughty sheets more suited for the wrapting of plackages than the maining of breadings teast. With the two reads alsees either for sheep-right in garments quite appropriate for indeces in a hot disease. They were gausy and not extensive. One of the gifts carried some kind of musical instrument. They smilled warmly upon Teny as he inhished techting

"Your breakfast, Lord," said one of them brightly. "The city rejoices in your victory,"
"Vactory?" said Teny. "What victory?"
"The defeat, Lord," said the prettier

"The defeat, Lord," said the prettier of the two slave-girls," of the driss who was sent to slay you who are the hope of Barket. The cannens fre and the people dance in the streets. There will

be decentions and fireworks."
Teny's conscience was skeptical. He shared its view. But the cannot boomed nevertheless. Yony's neck was sore this morning, and he had cold offlish down his back at odd moments. Breaking the dyswe's ingree had been a sound Army trick, but this Ec-Souk had immediately.

trace, but thus Es-Souk had immediately. Tong afterward swelled to the size of at least a hippopotamus, and as soon as he stopped rearing he'd have tackled Tony. Perhap again, and then there'd have been nothing but a lott left of Tony. Tony atill an old

didn't knew what had maie Es-Sauk sneeme or fice in noth palapshic believing terror. Teny's conteined said, with comething of the bite of wirel, that the dyes had doubless sneemed from an incipient cold, and that these two slavesities, weren't say fee well protected against draughts, either. He reparded them interestedly as the great sider platter same to rest on foldgreat sider platter same to rest on fold-

great after platter came to rest on folding lags, conveyient to his braisist. The two make slaves bowed deeply and departed. The booming of rannon continued. The two girls stayed.

"Him ..." said Tony, "You two..."

"We serve you, Lord" said the girl with the surgical last two..."

with the musical instrument. She seemed ontic happy about it "I play and Eair dances, or she plays and I dance, and both of us cave your meat and poor your abretet and serve you in all ways." Tony regarded them again. Slawgirls. Unweiled. Very abotthilly attired. Very pretty. A charming idea of hospitality, Ghall had sicer less, but.— His conscience scarted at him.

tory" he observed, reaching out for coffee.
One of them passed if to him, reverently:
"Aye, Lord," she said brightly, "Never before in the history of Barkut has a man defected a djuni in single combat.

their subjects long ago.

He drank the coffee. So hebody before had ever defeated a driven in single combat. In that case, maybe some sort of celebration was in order. But he gloomity without he brown how held done it. He

scowled.

"Yhu seem sad, Lord," said the one called Esir, archossly. "Esser has made a song of your vectory. Would you that she sing to chorr you?"

Tony grunted. His conscience observed warmingly that he did not know anything about the local domestic habits. Perhaps, doubte the veits and swathing robes women were in the streets, it was an old Arabic russion to provide strictly JOURNEY TO BARKUT IT musical entertainment with hereicfast in cartivity of their official roler. On the

a guest's bedream.
"You two are slaves?" he saked, as one of them anticipated his reach for an orange and swiftly halved it for him and handed it to him with a tray golden apoon for him to eat it with.

"Aye, Lord. Year slaves," said the two in unison, bearning. Tony strangled on his first sponful of creator units. They nounded his back

of orange pulp. They pounded his back anxiously. He coughed and blinked at

"You mean—"
"You seem to Barkut without attendant, Lord," and It was not fitting. So the Coincil grave as to you, with house and other slaves, that you might be suitably served. And if of 10, you show, winder to have to you might be suitably served. And if of 10, you show, winder to have the you impediately but their the proof of the proof o

TONY abscribed the statement. It required considerable shorting. He opened his morth, and they have upon the important part of the closed it without saying snything. So Ghafil had kept him from having these two girls to dance and sing for him last night, sh! His conservers caid something half—this best interests at least the part of the his best interests at beart, but it had said too more of the his best interests at beart, but it had said too more in the nest shout her

nonchalantly displayed bare legs. He did not heed it. "Tonight," said Tony with decision, "thags will be different."

"thags will be different."

They gave him the brightest and most joyous of ansiles.

"And may we watch, Lord," said

Eaim hopefully, "when you slay the other dynear who will doubtless be sent to-murder you tonight?" Tony choked again. That was some

Tony chekrd again. That was some thing he had been trying not to think about. The people of Barkut were, apparently, rather casual about discus in raths of the homocontinued was oud the two occasions when dyims had turned up to Yeay's innovledge, the people had not run away, but had come howling with rage to attack them. Filia-leck musicats had bellowed after the dyimne Nasim as she field in the form of a whiriwind. Paince guards had been spelling for a fight and were actually breaking.

down the door of Tony's apartment when he opened if for them after Es-Souk's departure. These poople would put up a battle, and were not averse to it. But still they said that no one manhad ever before conquered a djimu in sincle combat.

It was something that acctic to be bedeet into. And then Tony had a lides, bedeet into. And then Tony had a lides, the state of the sta

Arabic, with Ghail around to look at appreciatively—

But now the dyinus were after his neck. Now he needed to know what to

mack. Now he, saided to know what to do.

He finished his breakfast and stood up. The two girls brought him a golden basin and water to weak his hands. They watched his every movement with a breakfass absorption which was almost childlike and was certainly fastering. Plasmission them, he sattle does on her

Dismissing them, he patted one on her bare shoulder. She made a little movement as if cuddling against his hand while she smiled at him. He patted the other—

They went out the door, amiling wer-

shipfully back at him. He found himself whistling as he dug in his pocket for the ten-dirhim pace. He regarded it affectionately. When he was a brask young executive with a residence in

young executive with a residence in Barkut entably staffed with male and female slaves, it would all be due to this coin! And now this sein world give him He flipped it. He flipped it again. And again. And again.

HALF an bour later, when Ghall came into his apartment—and he noted disapprovingly that she was wearing

some needed advice-

It into his apartment—and he robot disapprovingly that she was westing more olohes than ever—he was sunk in adjournal gloom. The tred-thinm place adjournal gloom. The tred-thinm place adjournal gloom. The tred-thinm place heads and talk completely: at random, the certification of the state of the place and talk completely: at random, the state of the place and talk to make the place and talk in the length of the wheat prevented the industrimmation his—wheat prevented the industrimmation his—wheat prevented the industrimmation has been appropriately as the place of the pl

was no longer endowed with any property writing its return.
Ginal regarded Teny with an enigmatic expression.
"Greeting, Lord," she said in a tone which had all the earmarks of switable slave-with humility, but somehow was

not hamble at all, "there is nows of great moment."

Tony felt inclined to grean. Among other things, he foresow that he would be in for a bad time with his consciouse presently.

"What is the news?" he asked dream.

"The King of the Djisss has sent an embessy." Ghall told hom, "He offers greatings to the prime from beyond the farthest set. He admires your provess and desires to look upon the champion who defeated Es-Souk in single combathe has punished its Seak for attempting to sky a human is a merely private

quartil. He offers a trace, safe-conduct, and an ecort of the private guard." Tony's confecience said indignantly that when an important message like this was at hand, Tony should be ashamed to be looking at Chall and mooning about how much better-looking the was in less-costome.
"What should I so " saked Tony." "An Do I tell atm I'm in conference?"
Ghall shock her head frignify.
"You should accept," she told him
with no cordiality at all. "If you refused,
he would think you were afreal."
"To be hencet about it," sand Tony, "I

am. Have you any idea how I chard that dyinn away but night?" She looked at him in amazement. "I haven't either," said Yony. "He was stranging me, so I broke a couple of his fingers and he let no, howling. Then he averlied up to the use of a virunto-

scortia, believing, while I coughed my head off. Be, was just about to come for me again when he started to ancest, and he went into a panie and flew out the window like his tail was on fire. I haven't the least idea why." The slave-girl looked at him strangely, "He smead? But held sometimes,

The stave-girl looked at him.strangely.

He snessed? But leaf cometimes essent that! Not always, but sometimes. Had you loof?"

"Not unless it was on my breath—

which into it was on my orestowhich int't unlikely." Tony said gloomily. "It's foul stuff and the aroma ingers on. I had a drink of it yesterday. You gave it to me."

to human britiga," said Ghail with some reserve. "We abolist our weapons and builets with it before we go out to flight the diplexe. It is very yourness to them. They run away. Sometimes they steece. But loaf is very rare. The drives pay the Bedown of the descrit to upreof and destroy it wherever-they find it."

"Like DOT," said Tway merbidly,
"with bugs hiring rabbits to sabetage
the whole bosiness." He had to use
English words where he did not know
the Arable convolatins. She listened, mcompethending. "Never must. If you
don't know how I did it, nobely knows,
as that's that. So—I have to visit this

o so that's that. So—I have to visit this direct visit and strength of the to visit this direct visit and that. I suppose I'm safe from further granging until I get back?"

"Oh, yee," sand Ghail. "You and your attendants are age until you return. Of

course you will be affered bribes to betray us, and persuadon, and he may try
to frighten you, and—" her voice prive
suideably angrey—" he will have his
dismesse firy to beguite you. He does not
want you to lead our armore against
tatted for

him."
"I'd try to recist the bribes and the beguings, too," said Tony. Then he shuddered. "If what I had yesterday was a fair sample... Tell me, where do I set this reputation as a general."

was a fair sample. . . ten me, were religion of get this reputation as a general?"

Ghall said ceddly:

"I teld the council about the war you were in. Also, that distance in the court-yard may have been listening for days. One was or another, it would get back.

to the drines."

TONY had been standing. Now he sat down. He looked at Ghall, He said.

ast down. He looked at Ghail. He said, changing the subject: "What's the matter, Ghail? You act as if I had bleeding gums or something equally regulaive. When you thought I was a dying you didn't act this way."

Chall said:

There's nothing the matter.\* Then he added pointedly, "Did you only your brektfast this morning?"

"That roaded sheep whan't necessary," admitted Tony. "The ceffee and fruit would have been enough. Did you

arrange (It"
"It was thought," said Ghail coldly,
"that since I had talked to you often I
might know your likes and dislikes."
"His...," said Tony, "You picked
out those shaves—the two girls who were
part of the present nach by the Coun-

Her lips tensed. "I did. I hope they please you."
"It evidently didn't occur to you," and Teny in sentle represely, "that you could have included yourself in the pit. That is the only criticism I could offer." She stamped her foot, "I am the personal property of the Guern! he ranged. "The Guern I have named. "The Guern I have named."

a prisoner of the diffuse. I cannot be beught or given save of the queen!" "If would be mine," Tary submitted, "If you could be persuaded."

She turned her back on him and started for the door. Torp said: "By the way—when do I start for the drive king's court? And you said the safe-conduct includes my attendants. Do I tell Barr and Essim to neck us for a

trip?"
. "You do not?" Ghall said shortly. "You will have but one attendant. You will start before nightfall. The dying will provide mounts and accomplation for

start before nightfall. The djons will provide mounts and accommodation for you and one other only? "I suppose...".
"You will go," Ghall said shortly, "because the diese king invited you. I so

ons your pretended slave, but actually to take necessities to our captive Guern."

Tony looked at her. He raised his cysbrows.

"The journey," said Ghail haughtily, "will be reade on the canels of the

drives, which are netually drives in the form of camels. They travel his the wand. What would be four days journey by human travel will be accomplished in no more than three hours."

"I was sure," said Tony in some re-ret, "that somehow you would manage

one make it measurements are the make it makes i

around is lot, in a creature of limited area, and abred assumed interested in him, if seconful. Now she seemed searnrel of him and not interested. She rather resembled his conscience His conscience said sternly that though an unitational alarwairit, manyel

ing "You're not enery with me?" m a highly unforceable atmosphere, she "Oh, no," said Tony, "It wasn't your at least showed a devotion to duty and a fault."

not displaying. Only Heaven knew. said Tony's conscience, what enormities he had ceased to heed his proper mentor-

had a sense of duty To this Tony replied that Gazd's sense

attractive slave-girls as presents for him, and since he was going off somewhere and didn't know when he'd be back, he mucht as well call them in and have some music while he waited

He stood up to pull the bell-ford. Then he saw a stirring down at floor, level out of the corner of his eve. He whirled with something like a gasp. After the affair of the dungeon courtyard and the windowsill last night, he

frogs and other small objects moved in his neighborhood.

Two of the marble tiles of the floor were riging where they toined, as if semething awalled honorth there. Tony stared, promentarily paradyzed. A green peared at its tip as he watched. Branches anread out, and more leaves, and then a had. The had surelled. It opened into an

encemous lush blossom of a violent macents has. And then the flower rearranged itself. It became a miniature ing her explicitly micro-I-O expression of amability. -"Shahah!" and the face in the flower.

Tony gulped, "I'm sh-sh-h-h-shed," he said. "What's up?" "I'm sorry about Ea-Souk," said the

dyunce, bearing. "He's so yealous! He can't help it, poor thing! The king has "Ob."

day !"

"I felt that I had to tell you I was fairs of state, and all that, I'm taking societ," said the different, almost simper- only one attendant, and I've not choice

"That's so good of you!" said Nasim. She regarded him with adoring, cowifice even from the flower-head "Pos been hiding in a cruck as a little moth's eeg. waiting to tell you how servy I are. But there's been somebody around all the time."

"Yes." said Tony. "There has been." "Would you like me to take the form fully-and giggling- "For a while?" "You'd better wear some clo-" began Tony in apprehension. Then he said desperately, "Better not, Somebody

Nasim beamed, "All right But you're ground to our king's court. I'll see you there! I'll be around! "I'm sure you will be," said Tony dis-

"I'm watching over you," said Nasim beartifically. "Since I heard about what Re-Souk tried to do on my account, I made up my mind to watch over you night and day. And I will! Night and

Tony stared at her, appalled. There was a small noise outside the door-Naxim said sentimentally. "I hate to go like this, but somebody's coming," She beamed, "I'll be a little greate-spot on the floor. Mind. now." she added archly, "Don't step on me?" The flower and blossom and all the smoothly. Suddenly they were not. The

marble floor, tiles fell together with a A delicate tapping on the door. Esir door-frame. Their faces were hopeful, and at the same time distressed." "Lord!" said Enr plaintively, "We hear that you go on a loss per? Do we go

too?" Tony sighed.

of the inside of an Austin coupe, minus "But Lord." protested Esim. "We the instrument-board. But it did not

not even know if we please you or not?" They came into the room. They were women and shamely. They pleased him years much. They were openly easier exoked at him imploringly.

"I like you both year much "said Torre "In fact-" He thought back along a lifetime in New York, spent on subwave and in automata and over doubleentry ledgers, with only one interlude nounding a typewriter in an army camp. In fact, I think I could be perfectly happy here in Barkut but for one thung." They said anxionsly

"Lord what is it that keeps you from Tony sighed deeply. He said in deep-

eat sloom; "Dammit, there's no neivaev?"

HR dring camel was twenty feet tall and it ambied through the wight over the desert with monstrous strides. there was a camel-quard of drings ridyear other diffen esmels on overy hand Alterether the picture was one of barhave magnifectors. Word awant man the contrivance which did duty as a cabin on the huge ship of the deart. ride so smoothly. The one of the camel did not change the nature of its gait, and animal area in metion Tony looked out a window at their

escort. Ten-foot diffens on twenty-foot camels. Bearded, moustachioed, tusked and pointed-eared monstrosities, with amount as tall as their cample with more strous actuitars as tall as Tony himself. with corments of ailly and volunt and garnished with gigantic precious stones which gleamed even in the moonlight. A hundred of them, no less, keeping close formation about the beast on which In the mocalight, the djian guard

looked bored. It probably was boring, Tony reflected abstractedly, to be pladding at a mere forty miles an hour over endless sund, on the back of an accusintance metamorphosized into a camel who would presently expect you to change places with him. This kind of exchange was taking place with some regularity. At least, camela and their riders droped out of formation and fall

behind, and presently new camels and now riders came borrying up from the rear to resume the place that had been "A lurching of the camel threw Ghail

against him. She was velled, now, and awatched in all the drapery of a woman dressed for travel or the street. She was



es STARTLES
singularly remote, too. Back at Barkut's
city gate, she had elimbed the ladder to
the camel-cabin—at the height of a
storcy window—with an air of extreme

the camel-ashis—at the height of a steep window—with an air of scheme also nears, (zovieng the demoniac effects also nears, (zovieng the demoniac offets paraderers waiting about. Tony had been make to match her dignity as he small, done coppe. The quard had fermed up about them and they had pure sweeping, away into the dust darkness, leaving the ethy's first and vinishing lights behind. Chall had post to you have the same and they are training in the same and the paraders of the paraders of the same and the paraders of paraders of the same and the paraders of the same and the paraders of the paraders of the same and the paraders of the paraders of the same and the paraders of the paraders of the paraders of the same and the paraders of the paraders of the paraders of the same and the paraders of the paraders of the paraders of the same and the paraders of the paraders of the paraders of the same and the paraders of the paraders of the paraders of the same and the paraders of the paraders of

again. Tony was thrown almost into her lag.

"I'm sorry," he said politely. "Bad read, this,"

"There is no road," said Ghall composedly. "We have reached the foothis of the mountains, and the dylon are not used to walking. They washed to carry

tes in whirlwinds, but in your name I declined."
"I suppose," agreed Tony, "we'd have potten dirry."
He fell silent again. Another mon-

strons lurch, and Chaff landed almost exactly on his lance. He hetped her back into her own place again and said; "Look lurc! We'd better have some system about this! I know you disapprove of pe throughly, but in default of safety-belts I'd better put my arm around yea."

The earnel seemed to atombic and Tony grabbed. They were suddenly upright tegate, and his are was drawly avound her and abe made no protest. "I don't disapprove of you especially," she said o'th seems primeses, "but all men are alike."
"The observation is preparkably aris-

grain, he told her. "I suppose you are also prepared to fell me that I do not respect you?"

She turned her head. Her line were

close to his ear.
She whispered fercely:
"The count to a dilumi He Netenina?"

"Tree," said Tony. "Damn! No priv-

HE STARED gloomly out at the mostlif footballs which now had as mostlif footballs which now had asked on through deeply-placebased mon-light toward mostless which also were as laborately absorved and whiting abreed, he suddenly felt a soft land grouping for lab. It presented his farers meaningfully.

He squered back, encouraged byroad expectation. But the hand was anabhed away.

Soft warm breath on his neck. A furious whipper in his ear:

"I wanted to tell you conceibing! Here is last, in two years phin's you can break in case of need. Then no djitm will cover soor you. It is for you're protection!"

Tony you out his hand again. One very small amount gloss object, the way of his theath or smaller. He you'll wave, He reached again. Amother. A third. He you there is no specially the product of the cover the former of protection that would be dearers!

avoid the danger of breaking them against each other. He put his lips to her ear.

"Thembo. Have you come for yourcelf?"
"Of course! And some for the Queen.

to her resear—selve you are ready to destroy the differ. Now use had better talk, since you have begun?" He lensed back, as well as he could considering the violent and erratic

movements of the sjibs camel's gail.
He suddenly began to feel better. After all, qualified privacy on a djims's back might have its points.

"Hm. ." be said aloud "In my country the drawn have been subdued so

long—they're kept on resorvations both dumans, don't bother about them any more. Pre even feepedien the attle one learns about them in first grade at achoel. It sooms extraordinary to me that they can change their size so much. Their shape, you. In my country even immen women can do remarkable things to their stances with yields and falsion.

DOTUNEY TO MARKET You'd hardly believe! And of course you blashed in the most unlikely places they change their coloring. But size, ab-... Why ?" She said through clenched teeth;

solute gire, no. . . " Ghall stirred unesally. But she spoke as primir as before "Dillows are alastes" she said "With

the same amount of substance they can be so large as a whirlwind. Or as small as a smain of sand, though no one could nessibly wick them up.... for abrays they

weigh the same." "You mean," saked Tony, with interest, "that a driven in the shape of a bur or-hm-a moth's egr, weighs as much

sort of thing?" Ghail casely hold of his right hand, which had wandered, and held it firmly. "That is it, yes," she said shortly

"Then that," said Tony blithely, "explains why the bench in the courtward turned over. A dries bootle was climbing on it. 'It explains a lot of things." Chail caught hold of his left hand and

he'd it savowly. She ground her teeth, "Thanks," said Tony. "Since we don't get thrown around so much this ride is much more fur, un't it?"

Gineil terrord her head and whiteness in his ear, strangling with fury "As soon as you have destroyed the driven I am oppose to kill you!"

TONY-beamed in the darkness inside the small Austin-sized callin on top of the lupching camel. Ghall held his hands, mottering fierosty. His arm was about her shoulders. The combination made the humping and awaying and unboly

undeletions of the heast not at all anasying-to Tony. "There's another thing I'd like to ask about," he said cheerfully, "When you were teaching me to speak your languare, you were a very sexuible hottoo much of it. About like the bathingsuits eiths wear back at home. And you very properly didn't seem embarransed

wasn't, you sot-all bothered. In fact

"Delene are not human. I would not be embarrassed before a cat, either. Or a slave. But a room you!" "Yet Esir and Raim-" "Thre would have been embarrassed too, before they were given to you and were your slaves." Her voice onlywood with fury. "I am dressed as I am bo-

cause I travel with you." Then she hissed into his ear; "When this is over I will use that you are boiled in oil! You will be fed to deas!

You sell be forn into little mecco-\* Tony's ear timeled plesoantly. He contwenty-foot camel which was actually a

ditan went awaring and turching the desert proper-a carayan might this camel made that much in an hour -and it was another hour before the

djinn king's court appeared to be nearing. The evodence of approach was fairly obvious. The troop of dfinn guards approached a narrow pass between precipitous cliffs. It was manded by two colossal shapes with flaming eyes. They stood forty feet high, in gleammy armor, and they carrood battle-axes. whose blades were more than a manheight wide, with shafts the size of palm-trees. They challenged in voices like thunder. The cavalende helted, A

guttural voice gave a countersies. The gigantic guards drew back, Tony watched with interest. "Very impressive," he said indically. "But actually, you tell me, these are simply drine who have extended themsolves decompressed themselves you

might say-to reach those rather exnot much more substantial than so much for, are they? How can they handle such . But that was only when you thought I "The axes," said Ghall shortly, "are a part of themselvis. Divers can take 44 STARTLING STORIES
the appearance of a chest of cours or of feet shows the camels of the carrayan

jewels, which seem like many objects. Burto pull away one corn or jewel would be to pull away a part of the dyinn. You could not. The axes are a part of their form, So are their garments and the commencia they way.

"Hen," said Tony, "I see."

THE cavaleade went on. The pass
Theough the mountains graw more
zarrow and more straight. The clifts
above it graw steeper until the giant
camels with their giant ridges, rede in

above it grew steeper until the glass camele with their giant rides rode in other darkness with only a ribbo of star-studied sky above them. Then the poss terned, and widered a little and fattler and still narrowey peri of the pass was completely thosed by something only bright barilpht earlied Tony to believe he saw it was the brad of a fragren with local cyce, seeming's the-

out bisurely paris of amoles the size of subway-trains.
The coravan moved up to it and halted. The beader of the guard bellowed. The great eyes of the dragen's head opened. Each was so large—so Tony estimated as one of Macr's inductions wandows.

They looked helectily down at the dysm trooper.

He bellowed again. The mostrils puffed, Then the gigantic month opened. It looked rather like the raising of a drawbridge for the passage of a tow of coalbarrows. It wared wide Flames planted

britist, far down the exposed throat. The carvage moved grantly into the wide-teld inva. If west confortable down into the funce-first inva.

And sodderly the leve-lamping more subject to define the function of the state of the define king in the distance, it was house. It was ablace of the define king in the distance, and the passage-way to it was limited with giants whose feet, only, were viscously and the state of the defined with giants whose feet, only, were viscously defined to the definition of the defin

The heads of the grants were invisible. Tway felt very small. To reasons himself he said smiddly to Ghall! "It must be a fairly colm night, if not, expanded as they are, even a light breeze would make these grants wabble all over the place like captive balloons." Ghall sait Tomy's right hand formly.

front of him. She released it. She took his left som and removed it firmly from her shoulders.

"We are almost there," she said shortly, "You will sak that I be taken to our Queen in her prison, that she may have he solace of a hurism woman to ween.

the solace of a husian woman to weep, with her in her captivity."

There was sudden uneasiness, even arxiety, in her velox. In fact, it wavered a little. And Tony knew why she was frightened. She traveled as his slave.

Here, among the dises—
"I'll de that," he told her almost remersafulls. "I've been pretty much of a
beats haven't I? But I'll see that you're
toddled off to your Queen while I see the
king and litten to his offers of beibes."
She objusted her veil and weathin-

"You will not see him tonight!" she said bitterly. "You will be shown to veer apartment, and there he will send re-freshments and entertainment to bergule you so that you will wish alliance with him instead of Earther! There will be ware, and djeweece in the form of

with him instead of pariots. There will be wise, and diseases in the form of women, and everything that is disreputable to appeal to a man?" Teny managed to book shocked. Actually, it sounded interesting.

"You mean that differs are as immoral as all that?"
"Of course?" she said more bitterly still. "They are stupid! They are unbelievably stupid! So of course they are

some employe on a wine valuey min a swarmous appears of the distance. Immoral! And if they were not stuppd, it was ablaze with lightle. and probably if they were and immoral, and the passage-way to it was lined with giants whose feet, only, were visually the study of the study

Suddenly, the was crying. And Tony

-and-"

JOURNEY TO BARKUY

patted her shoulder comfortingly, and took aside her vell and wiped her eyes. And as suddenly side was not crying at all, but looking at him very strangely. "What—what do you think of ne now?" he asided in a small velce. "My dear," said Tony with a sigh, "I think was are unshably the meet intelli-

gent girl I ever met m my life."

The caravan halted before the intricately sculptured gateway of the drien
king's palace, and there was no more
time for even semi-private conversation.

Tony descended from the cassal in a
very stately fashion. To the perpecually-

Tony determed from the camel in a very actually destined. To the genreconstructed drives chamberialin who greeted thin is the kind's name, he relayed Charlis request—that also be allowed to the charles the wist. Shortly, thall were away behind a difference who was at the moment some twelver fort that, of a green-the complexities, and wearing a needline of diamonds such one of which was a

good deal larger than a baseball. Tony chatted amiably with the chamberlain who greeted him so a prince and a general of Barkut. "A most comfortable journey!" said Tony, as a procession formed up to except

him to his quarters. "Your excels, in particular, arouse my admiration?" He awagesered in exactly the meaner of the softiary general he had come in contact with in the greatest war of the human race.
"Admiratle?" he recented in that gro-"Admiratle?" he recented in that gro-

"Admirable," he repeated in that generally very tones. "The one who carried me is a very poral mong camels?"

The camel he had ridden turned its hand. It looked at him sentimentally. It signed gustily. It girgled.

Nasim.

TONY was, he admitted regretfully disappointed. He'd marched to his se-signed quarters in the galace between long lines of digine courtiers, who should have deazeled him with their silles, sating insures, and furs. But once a slight noise.

he discovered that the courtiers he had just passed were encossing away healthy, just passed were encossing away healthy, just passed were encosing a superior of the passed of the pass

to take a very somehouse of the error. The jevels were, in fact, nor marshatable economities. They were in effect pasks and therefore showed a harmoniable lack of irrangiantion. If the expectation of the

they passed.

There was a guard of henor in the anteroun before his saite. Tony west through the metions of inspecting it. Twelve-floot giants befored down at him through yellow cut's -eyes with arms of trunslesse. The commander of the guard grandly asked for the counterigin for Tony's personal guard for the sight. Tony through to Gladi.

"The word," he said, 'ne 'Sollinde,' "
Then he went to look at his bedroom.
Like the rest of his ledging, it was
an acide of invisithness to be found only
in three-million-diffus-badget mobbercovered from a treemedous imposible, in
the walls were intenseen; the furnitum
se oury and gold; his quarters in the
pulse in Eurheat were practically subcould not fine of a thrill in R. (Soll had

spoiled everything by that unfortunate comment on the ability of drings to take tay form they wished, including chests of coins and lewels. It spoiled things for him. It spoiled even the effect of the ntisely levish super-fromondous have quet-hall to which he was presently

He was very heneful as the affair began, but he fell into zentle melancholy as the differe maye him the works. They intended, evidently, to give him the sort of evening that would be a True Believer's dream. And from their standpoint it was undoubtedly total entertain-But Tony derived only a morbid pleasure from the apprished mosaus of his cona ritisen of the United States, accustomed to a sineteep-dollar radio for music, the Radio City music-hall as seen from a dollar-forty sent, practically any

stonal burlesque abow over in New

Jersey, the thing was nathetic. A normal male inhabitant of Barkut might have been rayished-in several serves by the corretal boad of wine which was his enough for several siris swim in it. But Tony had seen colored movies of an All-American cirls' spring mine meet. An unsophisticated Arab in the have been enchanted by the diffeneer who were human forms and practicelly nothing else and who same lostily benefit. But he had seen precision dans ers both in person and on the stars Also, these different miseridadly strong for beauty after Arab notions, and in conrecognice were markedly steatorygian which is to say, bell-bottoned. So that times with the best and Torrie time median 'o homesickness... There is an art in do-- Ing the humas. There is a definite technique to the strip-tesse. And the diffsnect, willing workers as they were, didn't the beginning, when he failed to rise and denart smid blushes. But no he sat a sad and losely and a disappointed figure, immune to the laylah immorality of the had been prepared for the battle of its existence, and was girded for it. But in Tony's system-so he assured his tertainment passed by boards of censorship in the United States. He was up-

affected by the temptations of the divers because—via technicolor—be had been the diseases simply did not stand up. gretfully, it seemed that where djinness were concerned, he simply couldn't take yes for an answer.

## BY MIDNIGHT he was yawning. - At half-past midnight he could be no his come once only with difficulty. At one he went anchoretically, and alone, to hed. His conscience could hardly believe it. And when at last it ventured upon those sterely virtuous commendations which coming from a good conscience, are sup-

nosed to be the most arreigns things in But no conscience is approving for more than the briefest of intervals. Toro's almost instantly afterward observed that it was outrageous for him to think of sleening in his clothest. He corned beredom-bleared even and looked wronly amund the magnificence of his sleeping-apartment, and regarded the hed which was surely large enough for mare than one person. He had had have lesson. He saw nothing but seemingly in sensate furniture. But he know hotter. Beaches might totter and fall at any instant. Floor-tiles might crack. And he confessed to his conscience what may have been the true yeason for

"I post feel," he said drearily, "that I haven't any privacy.

Tray's aspeciance acrosmed shrilly at

Game the dawn. And with the dawn came Nasim. It was as early that Tory had turely opened his eyes. He was thinking those more or less gicomy thoughts with which a man customarily greets a new day, when a small whitwind some three and a half feet high cases in through the decreay of his room. Alop II. Ansim's beauting comroom. Alop II. Ansim's beauting comtraction of the company of the comtraction of the company of the comtraction of the company of the comtraction of the com-

siept fully drassod, including his show. He sat up wearily, "Helle, Nasam. Thanks for the camfiel. That was you, wasn't life. That was you, wasn't life. Sat girged. "I saked to do in! I said is Sat girged." I saked to do in! I see he was the said, "Fast shwe-gird doors!" like you life strukely all shwe-gird doors! like you make a study of dort! his hot either. You said she was intelligent. The gial I found out! I was girling to make a study of her se! Could this hor known as they of her se! Could this hor known how a post of known how? I say the set of the set of known how a post of known how? I say the set of known how a post of known how? I say the set of known how a post of known how? I say the set of known how a post of known how a

I won't."

For some reason, Teny's hair tended to stand up all over his head. But he yawned.

No," he said. "I wouldn't, if I were."

you. It wouldn't be amusing." Then he asked, "How'd you get past the gaards? Somebody told you the countersign."

She giggled again, "I was a little contipede running along the floor. They don't see me. Anyhow, the king wants me to find cut why you were brored last night. Were you—" she sighed and looked at ham horsefully—"were you being true to

me?"

Tony felt a sort of inward jolt. Natim, in bis mind, was associated with beetler and metha-eggs and grease-spots. Now centipedes, teo.

centipedes, tec.

"I guess that was a sert of—mm—byproduct of scinething else, Nasim," hesaid forlownly, "I just iddn't feel remantic last night, That's all. Did the
king say snything else about me?

"He's geing to excente Es-Scok for
trains to all samphand he's decidad for

virtuously. "And he wants you to watch. I feel sorry for poor Ex-Soul? He couldn't help being jealous of me! And No the King's terribly anxious to find out how to make you his friend instead of a general for Barkut."
"Do you know," said Teny, "I'd give

JOURNEY TO BARKUT

"Do you know," said Tony, "I'd give a lot to know why he's so anxious?" NASIM beamed at him; just a plump

NASIM beamed at mm; just a posmy little whirewal three and a half fact tall, appearing in the middle of the tall, appearing in the middle of the tall, appearing in the middle of the tall, appearing the tall property without tall; and the tall pleasy knief at thirty-free deliars a day without tall; his looked, Tooy effected dissually, rather cuts for a whirlwind. A but on the chubby saids, to be sure, would appreciate Nhaim. Such a person would appreciate Nhaim. Such a person would be caper to have her for a pet.

would be caper to have her for a pet.

Still—

"I'm going to whisper in yeur car,"
and Namm coyly. "And I'll have to take
hiffian form to get close enough."

The whirlevind unlarged a bittle. Tony

the worround managed a settle. It of watched in alarma as a brigant figure begin to show pinkly through the mist which was Nasim as a whirlwind. He grew apprehensive, He called anxiously:

"Cothes, Nasim!"
His cry came almost too late, but not

quite. The very last of the mist which was her whirlwind form materialized about her as a Mother Hubbard wrapper of absolute shapelessiness. Then she beamed at him breathlessly.

beamed at him breathlessly.

"I always forget, don't 1?"

Even in human form, Nasim was

chabby, Her eyes were not the simpated animal eyes of male disease, though, and apparently she had remembered with some ears not to have her ears pointed. But Nasim, naturally, could not imagine an expression which was not intellectually keeps!. She came only and sat down on the bed close to Tesy. The bed yielded surprisingly under her weight, which give Tony assentiants to think

"He's geng to exceed Ea-Souk for trying to kill somebody he's decided be wants to be friends with." said Name and the source of the said wants to be friends with." said Name are the said wants to be friends with." said Name are the said wants to be said wants to be friends with.

was different vice-wice things and you lumn up.) New "The king wants you for a friend beyou sit right back down bere and whiscause of the way your nation destroys etties in war," she whispered, "In not a bit of a second, in flames hotter than TYONY shiwered. He ranked his brains for a suitable thing to say which the hottest fire." She drow back and beamed at him would be romantic enough and yet not "Now, isn't that nice of me?" she decommit him. He bent over "You know other dinns are listenmanded aloud. "Listen again!" ing," he said, dry-throated, "So of She hent ower. Tony listened, trying course . . " Then he swallowed and to think what meaning atomic bembe went on: "I'm groups to ask the king for could possibly have to a king of the

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"When Ex-Spak is executed, it will be like that," the cay voice whispered "Then'll explode noor En-Soule and he will be just a terrible explosion batter than the battest flome. And I told the king that you teld the slave-girl your conceptus keems dillion on reperuntions. So the king knows that your country want explode drings to destroy would enemied cities and he's afraid neadl tell the neanie of Borkut how to do it too."

diles.

Ghalf, whispering in his car on camel-

hark last night had provided a year

pleasant sensation; but somehow Nasim

Tony's flesh crawled. "It was not altogether the discover's that when a diffuswas executed be exploded. Any eventure which could change its size from that of a creature could not be ordinary matter. Not firsh and blood with sex-hormones and mineral salts' to taste. It would have to be something different. A mixture of loosely-knit neutrons and electrons and positrons and so on-Tony's knowledge of nuclear physics came from the Sunday supplements-and even that was startling enough, but not horrifying, The thing that made Tony's flesh crawl

was that every drive and drives must be in effect an atomic bomb. Which could be set off. They'd avoid it if possible, of ocurse. The differ king was scared to death of the bare idea. But no human

could feel corefortable setting on a large

bed with an atomic bomb next to him.

Especially, perhaps, when the bomb was wearing nothing but a Mother Hubbard

Natim looked at him in disenselet. ment. "I suppose that's hoble of you," she said migintively "but it use"t very remantic! You aren't nice to me! You clothes, and-" a pearl among camela, didn't 1?" demanded Tony harasardly "After all you don't want to rouse the beast in me, do you?" She stirried, and he added desperately: "-- In public?" "Well ... "-she said foreivingly, "I hadn't thought of that. I understand

now. I'll think of something. And I

She got up and trailed toward the

Tony got up hastily. Nasim looked:

Ea-Soul's life. I don't want him to die

on my account I..." he onlined audibly ....

"I egg fight me osen buttles," Against atomic bombs, too! his conscience added

acidly .

guess Pll go now."

"That's not nice!" She popted "L tell

door, a dumpy, rotund little figure in a wrapper that dragged lopsidedly on the floor behind her. At the door she stonged and giggled again. "You saying something about a beast just reminded me," she said brightly. "That slave-girl you brought with you sent a message. She said that if you canspare time from your beastly smusemonts, the Guren of Barkut wants to talk to you." Tony tensed all over-"How the hell do I ring for somebody

manded feverically. "She and Ghail are

"Anybody's show you," said Nasim.
"Jost ask your servents" "Inkent's any servents," said Tony spitaledly, "Only those gardes outside," "Oh, yes, you've got servents," Nasim Institck, "The king told there not to intrude on you but to be on hand if you syanted them, I'm sure he appointed a friend of mise to be your, valet. Abdull

Abdul! Where are you?"

Out of the corner of his eye, Teny naw an infinitesimal stirring up near the celling. He spun to face it. A cockroath-nuise a large cockroach amount of

top of the drapes by a window. It waggled ats feelers at them.
"Helio, Abbull" and Nasim. "The great prints who is the king's guest wants to see the queen of Barkut in her drappen. Will you take lim there?"

A saiden, goyaerlife atream of water sposted out from where the eccircustistood, Hard and powerful, like a threeioth jet from a five lose. It arrived across the room, bit the farther side said spinshed bouldy, rea down the wall to the floor, and there suddenly jetted upwardagain in a water-spout which, in turn, coldified into a swaggering abert stoot define with a merch turies.

drine with a purple turtien.

He bowed to the ground before Tony.

"This way, Lord," he said profoundly,
"to the Queen of Barket."

Glassy-cred, Tony followed him out of

XI

E FOLLOWED the dyine Abdel out
the door. Then he stayed. There had
been a vast unknown before the sunte.
He had green through the metions of inspecting his ground of honor in it. Now

in its place, with beyond it a loxurisant juggle of het-house trees. Tony examined it with startled attention. "It seems to me that this was a lettle bit different, last night," he observed. "Ave. Lord" suit his differ substrails."

re He led the way along the avairantingpeck's rine. Troy followed. He was werner ried about the message frem Chail, of course. The night he had jout speak had v been even aggressively innocent, but to come to the felt that Ghail was not a milkely to believe it. Her reduct for him to come to the Green was not phrased in a cellboay. But there was not much that the needed de about it.

"Interior decoration among the djinn," said Tony, frowning, "is evitontly not static art. Things change overnight, ch?"

overlight, ch?"

"Ape, Lord. And oftener," said Abdell ablemply, "We disans have much trouble with bendern. We are the mate powerful of created things. There is nothing that we can desire that we cannot have. So we suffer from bedom. Someone grow hered with the antercom and changed the design.

Tony raised his eyebrows. "I have a giase phial in my pocket," he observed.
"Can you change the design of that?"
It is a human object, Lord," said Abdol with an air of contempt.

Tony primed, During the night—daying his sleep—his consciouse had reached some highly moral conclusions which he was indicated to accept. One was that mans, but they were not for that reasons akin to the angels. Tony went right along with this decision, recalling the focus of the might before. More, they were the might before. More they were the might before. More they were the might before the property of the might before the property of the

somewhere in their constitutions, and in the United States the Atomic Briergy Commission would take action against them on the ground of national socurity. But they were not spirits.

They were material. Grossly material.

smeled, and beard. They were limited to the senses humans had. Tony had referred to the glass phisls in his pocket. Abdul plainly knew nothing about them and could not mystically determine them contents, or he would have been scared to death. They contained leaf. So it was not possible to keep a secret from a drieft. It was not impossible to fool

tissen. These were encouraging thoughts Ditant were creatures, and therefore had limitations. They changed massive architectural features of the deem kine's palace overnight, but they could not-it was a reasonable inference—change the form of a human artifact. Therefore it

change were of the same kind of matter as themselves.... have given upon a passageway of snown white. Its walls should have been of istory perhaps mushadan tusks most intricately carved in not very original dealone, Instead beyond the deer Tony found a corredor which was an unusually levish aquarium. It had walls of crystalwith unlikely tennoal fish swimming behind them. The fish wore golden collars and were equipped with pearl-studded

undergrater easilies to suffer comm in-Which was a clue. It occurred to Tony that he had not yet seen one trace: of a civilization which could be termed dylinesen, as opposed to human. Everything he had seen was merely an elabocomplication, of the designs and possesstore of men. Humans were clothes, so even if it wasn't fused. human patterns only more lavish and dyian king had a palace which outpalaced anything more humans could contriver But the riches of the dives were unstable, their lavishness had no all in his home world, Tony reflected, driven would only really fit in Holly-

STARTLING STORIES legst before that, and the row of giants: on the final isp to the palace gateway. If he uncorked one of the think, it was begin to succee and fice away in the form of whirlwinds-one whirlwand for each unit of the adirire. The disease relace

had an exact analogy in the living struc- . ica, which cling together to form a shel- >ter and a naisco-complete with roof. army-ant queen whenever she feels in the mood to law some erry. But the diinna were not scaless like the army ants. Nasim's remarks impulses seemed -the distracts who had danced for-him just night had displayed an enthusiasm which spendy group't all synthetic. They had something more than a theoretic knowledge of what it was all about

IT WAS with an excreming feeling of exempetence, then, that Tony strade off to answer Ghail's summons. He becan to anticipate his audience with the king of the drivers with less aversion... And semetow, the atomic-bomb aspect had never mentioned anythme of the that divers were fixusomb's. So it was unlikely that they could be set off by " getting romantie with an atomic bomb,

More doorways. They passed through parts of the polace with which Tony was naterally unfamiliar, and whose features as of today he could not compare with vesterday's. Then they reached a quite small, quite inconspicaous doorway, and the drive Abdul stooped before it and howed less again "The residence of the Queen of Bar-

of dry meadow with natches of parched crassahere and there. The sun shope

monotonously, and he assured himself that no drive was making that noise! A hundred-odd yards away there was a clump of trees and among the trees a

were plainly human buildings, not too expertly made, with completely human implements about them.

Tony advanced. Someone warred to him, and he felt his heart pound ridiculously faster. But as he drew nearer a stout, motherly woman with her gown calves. She seemed to have been working in a garden. He saw a neutly-heed notch of molons and a field of onions and other vegetables. The woman

beamed at Tony and said-"The Queen is in there. You are the Tony nodded. Abdul looked oddly un-

comfortable. "When you go back to Barket," said the woman, "do try to get them to send 'us so an except! We haven't had one sweets for months!" Then she said tolerantly to Abdul: "Not that you don't try,

of course !"

crying 90

Abdul wriggled unhappily. "I will wait here, Lord," he said sadly. "It is not fitting for a drive, of the most powerful of created beings, to be made 'something. mock of by a mere human. Perhaps I

Ghail came out of the largest building -it would have no more than two or three rooms, and was of a single story -and recurded Tony with a deliberately icy air. She said: "Greetings, Lord."

Just then the motherly woman said comfortingly to the short stout drives; "Oh, don't so away, Abdul! I'll watch your magic tricks for a while-if they're

good ones." " Abdul wavered. Tony grinned at Chail He said celtically: "Of the two of or, you look most like you had a hangover. Have you been

dismits. "over the sadness of her captrvity.

Then a pleasant alender syn-browned woman came out heade Ghail and nodded in a friendly fashion to Tony. He gaped at her. She had the comfortable alr of an annarried woman who is quite content to be unmarried. Which is not in the least like a queen. The paluce of the diven king loomed up on all nides, but here in the center things were different. These bauses did not

look like a dunzeon, to be sure. Here was a meadow half a mile this way by half a mile that, with these buildings and gardens in the center so that it looked like a small farm. The contrast nificence of the palace was odd enough. The atmosphere of reasonably complete contentment was stranger still. The Queen looked as if the were having a

perfectly comfortable time here, and was as well-satisfied as anybody ought "This " soul Chail stilltoily "is the Lord Toni."

HE Queen smiled. There was flour on her hands, as if the had been cooking

"Have you breakfasted, Lord Toni?" she asked. "Well-no," admitted Tony

"Then come in," sand the Queen, "and we will talk while you do." They entered a small room, an almost

room which had the shining neatness of But this had not the fusay preciosity of fire burning on a raised hearth, owing not empleasant "You will have coffee," said the Queen,

"and whatever else we can find. We are a little atrestened for food today, hecause so much went for your men! last "With my Onser" said Chall with "

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so. You can do anything with a djins if iolt which showed in his expression. The broom langhard .

"The dimes have their own foods." she explained. "But no human home can eat of their dainties. When I was frot made prisoner the king used to raid caravans to get food for me, but it was very technical. So now I have my own garden, and someone-I think it was Abdul-atole chickens for me. When you came as a must they asked me for food : for you, and I gave it. Of course. Your

what you pointed to in all the dishes they paraded before you, you actually got-" she chuckled-"no more than firsh of chicken, and eyes, and cheese and dates and solad! That was all I had Tony said painfully :

"Majesty, I think I ought to make some appropriate apooch. But I don't know what to say!" She bushed harself at the fremore, and Ghail went quickly to help. The two of them ease Tony his coffee, and a melon, and orgs. It went very well.

"You are going to defeat the diseas, Ghall tells me." the open said oractically. "She assures me you will destroy them to the last small diffusing, I hope Tony googled at her, "But-" "Oh. I know!"-said the Queen. "I am

their prisoner, and so on. But in their way they're rather cute." Tony stared. "I've lived among them four years." the Queen said brinkly. "Fve had them around all the time. They're a little bit

like men, and a good deal more like thildren, and quite a lot like kittens. I sunnote van'd say that Pre made note of them. Of course they won't let me go home, but it isn't bad." Tony chowed and awallowed, and then

said carefully; -"I'm afraid I don't quite understand." HE Queen shruered, "They're ter-

you flatter him. They're terrible show-. offs. like children. My maid outside can. wind Abdul around her little fancer any time. He loves to show off his transformations, and she watches him. The other ditions won't. And they're like kittens. because they're so' completely selfish. But that's very much like men and Tony said in astonishment:

"But they're a menace to Barkut..." "Of course!" the Queen conceded imnationally. "They're dangerous to Barkut in the same way that a troop ofsay-wild ones would be dangerous to a

village near where they hved. They steal, and they destroy, and they probably kill people now and then. But it's because they can't understand people and people can't understand them." -"There's a war-" began Tony. "Oh the war!" The Open dismissed

it scornfully. "That's what all wars are about, Misunderstandings, Marriages, are too, probably. Men are so absord? That's why I have to stay a prisoner." "Majesty!" The Queen regarded Chall with im-

patience. "My dear, you cannot dony that I am be patriotic! But for the same reason I the dfiner. Do you remember how I used to adore horses? I've come to like the

sijosus as well, that's all. I adjust that it seems terribly silly to me that I have to ity is involved in bolding me prisoner! If I were to escape and go back to Barkut, he'd feel that he had to attack it furiously to recentary me. So I can't so home until he's consucred. So I simnly want the Lord Toni to realize that as fay as I am concerned.

Ghail said again: "Majesty !"

Tony looked sharply at Ghail and at the Otteen. Ghail was young and very destrable. The Queen was less young and ribly vain, like men. If possible, more

contentedly undesireus. She laughed frankly,
"Vary well, Chall!" And to Toxy she add: "I shikk that even as a captive quees, though, I can amend my coxxec?" orders to say that it will not be needed as you externationate the diffuse completely! I should think, in fact, that if they were suitably subdued, a few turns once bent around the nakes would be

## quite pleasant. They'd be excellent for the prestige of the throne of Barkut,

- Tony said painfully: "Marcuty--" "It's really too had you came to Barkut at all." the Queen said, though with no unfriendliness. "Humans and dilese allike believe that if anybody can bring humans won't consent to a compromise until they've tried for concrest. And it they would, the differs would be sure they knew they couldn't win, and they wouldn't compromise until they'd tried for conquest! It's so solly! We really could get along without fighting, if we tried! I've been working the disas king. He was willing to come to a compromise, but-male vanity again!-only on condition that the Queen of Barkut of the question,"

of the question."
"It was out of the question?" snapped '
Chall, her eyes areny.
"I was wearing him down," pretested
the Queen. "After all, if he had his

harem of djörners, a private agreement that his marriage to a human queen would be a form and not a fact— "Absolutely out of the question!" repeated Ghall, her color high. "Abso-

, lutely "

The Queen sighed.

"I know it is, my dear ... and it's too late now, anytow. The Lord Ton has come. The humans think be's going to lead them to victory. The driesse are sure that if he can't, the war goes to them." She looked at Tony, frowning. "Of course; you've get to win, Lord Tonal Of course; the means as the alseva of Of course; the means as the alseva of

I djimns would be in a terrible state! It would be like being easlaved by apes or —children! And apes make face pets— I had one once—and children are doubtless very well, but apes or children or djimns would be horrible masters! But the djims are so ammaing—"

"Pm getting a trifle confused," admatted Tory.
The Queen nodded kindly."
"I know," she and condescendingly.

about thenge that reality matter, that "May Allah Sebestia" and Tong growly. "Yee accer yet talked to a vecsus by dish try to make me polysize for error to talk to me it is made to be expected to a like to me if I handle been! Yee are a quote. Allaydry, and yee's green as quote. Allaydry, and yee's green instructions. I'm only a mans. So what we're I do-Sense I'm a man-yeu will critiq. No mass can ever 6 as appring critiq. We will make the best of it. So I'm not good to yet of bothstere it is separate typing to try 100 whatever it is separate typing to try 100 whatever it is separate typing to try 100 whatever it is separate typing.

HE SPOKE hotly, through a natural association of their view point with that of his conscience. Which had reason behind it, at that, But at the same time, he wendered rather desperately what his own way would be.

The Queen regarded him complacently.

"I know. Men are like that." Then the added "I think you and Chall well.

"I know. Men are like that." Then she added. "I think you and Ghail will be very happy."

Chail turned crimson. She stamped

her foot furiously.

"Majesty!" she cried. "You go too
far---"

There was a small-sized uproar outside. The voice of the stout woman in

STARTLING STORIES "Abdul! Abdul! You can't do things like that!"

Your plunged to the door. At the foot of the wall which was the dimu king's palace, almost a cuarter of a mile away. there was a twelve-feet soldier-dillenwho by his sentures had just communirated some message of importance. In the stretch between the wall and the

farmbouse, a charging thinncerous raced at top speed. It plunged-toward the small group of buildings. Fifty yards away it seemed to stumble, crash, and in mid-air turned into a round ball made a diggying spectacle as it rolled. It was free feet in diameter. It sheeked abruptly two yards from the Queen's door and there abruptly wrinkled itself. changed color, and collapsed into the short, fat, awayeering drive with a turban who was Tony's guide to this place who was Nasim's friend Abdul, and who

had awaited a summons to duty as a valet in the form of a cockroach aton the window-hangings of Tony's fedroom. He bowed profoundly. "Lord." he said, "there is a message from the king. Es-Souk, who was to have been executed today for your amusement, has escaped from his pris-

on. He undoubtedly seeks you. Lord, to attempt your murder before his own death, since he cannot live under the king's displessure." TONY felt himself growing just a little

nale. He remembered feners clasics on his throat, and an elephant-sized Barket, beating its breast before falling - upon him to demolish him atterly. That - irrelevently - suggested the only possible source of action. Your

gulped and sand: "Thank you, Abdul. Tell the King I am very much obliged for the warning But tell him not to worry about it. I won't need any extra grands. I'll handle Es-Souk. In fact, I'll help hunt for him

my cigarette-lighter."

E WENT back into the house. His knees felt oneer. He fumbled in this nackets. He brought out the lighter, and

phials Ghail had given him in the camelcabin on the way across the desert-one Chail looked pale, too. "What are you going to do?" she de-

ndad. Her waice trembled. "Attend to Es-Souk, I hope," said Tony, with cuite unnatural-calm. To the Onesn he said: "Majesty, if you have env not drives around at the moment, you'd better chase them out. I'm onen-

ing up a phial of last,"

leaf of the last plant." .

But-

"I've got an idea," anid Tony. "It doesn't make sense, but nothing makes much sense any more. I'm going to take advantage of what I think is a generally occurring allergic reaction among dinne." The words "allergic reaction" had no Arabic equivalent, so he had to use the English ones, and to Ghail and the Queen of Barkut they sounded rejust to make sure. I'd appreciate it marmapsly if you'd draw me a nightre of the

He unscrewed the seal of the cigarette-lighter tank. It was beneatry of fluid, of course. It hadn't been filled since Suskim. And while confined in his later cell it had been extremely annoying to have to get a light for an occasional rigarette, rolled from local tobacco, from a brazier kept burning by the courds outside his gate. Now the lighter was a godsend. If he was right about last, a cigarette-lighter was they ideal weapon in which to use it.

He extracted the stopper of the amall class phial. With not especially steady fingers he poured the bound into the tank. It scoked up and scoked up. Its ofor was naticeable. Presently the wick was most. He re-sealed the tank and as soon as Pve-as soon as Pve refilled snanned down the lighter's cover. He restopped the phial and put it away

JOURNEY TO BARKUT

"Now I'd like to wash my hands," he said unhannily, "and-is that the victure of the fast leaf?"

The Queen had stooped and traced an outline on the clay floor of her dwelling. "I'm quite sure. Yes." Tony stared at it and sighed in enor-

mous relief. Ghail brought a bowl of water. He washed his hands with meticulous care. He desed them on a cloth she banded him.

"If you keep pet differs around," he observed, "better burn that cloth. Right away. And I'd empty the water on soft earth and throw more earth on top of it.

around, until you need it. The faintest

whoff would give it sway to them." . Ghail sold again: . "But wh-what are you poing to do?" "I'm coing to hunt Es-Souk," said Tony, "I think the diling king is nutting something over on me. I had a fight with Re-Souk in my bedroom in Barkut. He ren away. There's been talk of atomic

bombs and the king thinks I can make them. But he wants to make sure. I'm under safe-conduct, of course, but if a lotte and kills me, the king can't be blamed. He'll applorize all over the place of rourse He'll probably offer to pay reparations and indomnity, and sa-

Jute the Barkutian flag, and all that. But I'll be dead. And the war will so on · merrily. You see?"

"But that's-dishererable!" ed Ghail. "Nothing's dishenorable," said Tony gloomily, "unless you can prove it. And you'd never prove that! Just helping meet him in single combat, somehow,

know I do it without mirrors or outside help. If I do that, maybe we'll get somewhere." He turned to go out the door. Ghail

caught at his sleeve. ness characteristic of power politicians. "P-nlease!" she said shakily. The drives king in all his official acts was eyes were brimming. Tony saw the coefficiely virtuous and chinaleous. He'd

"What is it?" he saked. "Last\_lost night\_"

Queen regarding them critically. He Tony sighed decrely. "Losten," he said, "If you want to sign a piedge that the lips that touch distances' shall never touch yours, you

go right ahead? It won't interfere with my plans in the least. Is that satisfactory?" "I-don't understand," said Ghail

Tony regarded her in weary gloom-"Oh, all vieht!" He arread out his

hands, holding the organette-lighter in one of them. "Maybe you don't. But I'll bet Esir and Esim would!" He went out the door to find Abdul waiting for him expectantly. Behind the door he heard Chail sob. He marched beavily off toward the palace door, a

quarter of a mile away. Abdul followed interestedly. Torn's conscience spoke to him acidly, mentioning his discourtesy to Ghail and the fact that he hadn't even said goodbye to the Queen of Barkut. He snarled at it, out loud. In con-

sequence he did not bear Chail say, between weeping and fury: "The b-besst! Ob b-b-h, the beast!" Nor did he hear the Queen say ast-

I'm sure you're going to be very happy with him, my dear! You'll never

THIS was, however, one of the few times when Teny himself did know what he was seing to do. He was appry. He grew angrier. The whole affair was simply too put. It was too perfectly thing that the heads of nations in his and whup him again so the King will own world... the heads of some nations. at any rate-had pulled off too many times. Troy had not yet met the dimu king but he felt that he was being manipplated with the sort of smug clumpiSTARTLING STORIES

invited Toxy to visit him under anfercenduct, he'd provided him with a geard, with snirrtainment, he'd-paid him extravaguat honors—and he was arranging for him to be associated by someone whom he could afterward execute with every expression of horror for his crime.

his crime. "He's a damned—he's a damned tolatharian," Tony growled. He stamped into the palace, too angry to be seared any longer. There is a certain indignation of the nave and the imaginative which practical men and politicians sover understand. The inno-cent common either who believes in hair-content and rather than the palace of the commercials and

the eight and the state of the

was furtion; but offerend-out existing of the found in th

trait the sing commands ma presence there because of the disprace to all the djiess felk if one of them is too much a coward to fight a single man. And you will tell the king that if Es-Sook is adraid to fight me—as I believe—then I demand that some other djiess take his place upless all djiess are afrasd of ms!"

mm!" guard-captan forcered over Tear.

The third property of the helpful. For the
homorphic point of efficial guardian of the
homorphic point of efficial guardian of the
fung's guestly and etc., but debene a
form neatty combining impressiveness
and freety. He beford remarkably
on his bland legs and wearing a
grean-dayle legs and wearing a
grean-dayle point uniform. Now his catgreat glared down into Toury's. But Tear,
"Encodentally," snarked Tear, "you
"Encodentally," snarked Tear, "you

can tell the king that I'm quite aware that I'm being insulting, and that nobody will blame him if I get killed in single combat of this sort!"
"Lord," parred, the dynas captain of the guard, "I shall give the king your melasure."

He cainted and walked with feline grace toward the meanest doorway. There, however, he was momentarily stabled, because some other dyine assigned to being a part of the palace had grown bared with the design of his part of the structure, and had changed the doorwises. The captain of the grard had to stoop and crawl through a door-

TONY pased up and down, growing angrier by the second. He had never factored himself as a lighting man, and he did not factor himself as a conce now. He simply felt the consuming fury of a man who feels that somebody is trying to make a sucker out of him. He fairly steamed with fury.

manded of the king that I still be allowed to do battle with Es-Souk unless their strain of night me. The king, therrfore, grants safe-conduct to Es-Souk to an appointed light not Single combat, and an appointed light of Single combat, and JOURNEY TO BARKUT Tony whirled on him. gantly, he "You are very angry," said Abdul. fashion to

"And... Lord, created brings do not grow angry when they are afraid. You are not afraid."

"Is that all?" demanded Tony.

Abdul soutemed as if embarrassed.

Abdul squirmed as if embarrassed, As if embarrassed, too, his whole body rippled in the beginning of a trainformation into something size. He repressed it and returned to the appearance of a short, stoot, swaggering siles with a tophan. But he was not away.

gering now.
"It appears, Lord," he said applegetically, 'that you know you can destroy Ea-Souk, or whatever other champion appears to do buttle with you." Teny glared at bim. He thought he could, but he was not sure. His line of reasoning was tenuous, but he befored it enough, extrainly, to risk his life out.

Ye., so could not have managed that belief, at all, without his hot anger at the classiffy amart trick the drives king had so obviously centrived. It was not fair. It was too amart. And it was complacent. The complexency may have been the most caraging part of the whole thing.

"I am quite wrilling," said Teer, stranging with fury, 'to take on the

whole damated dying nation, beginning now, and including your fellow-dyings who happen to be the floors and walls of this recent! "Lord, we dying are the most powerful of created beings. Therefore we can

"Lord, we dyins are the most powerrul of erented beings. Therefore we can only have as our ruler the most powerful of created beings. Any less—any whom we could destroy—it would be beneath our dignity to obey."

Tony turned his back. He paord up and down. There was a pause. Then: "I take a great risk," said Abdul plaintively. "Lord, will you permit me

plaintively. "Lord, will you permit me "L.
to obey you?" "No!" snapped Teny. "Go to the dow walk
fil Get out!" thek
Abdul aighed. Mournfully, but els. will

gantly, he turned into a large mass of black, univ liqued which sank in funcral fathica to the face and flowed toward the doorway. But it did not open the door—it went out through the crack underneath. Tony was alone. He looked at the cigareth-lighter in his hand. He touched his three separate

peckets where phalas of hasf—one aimal empty, now—repland. He reflected with savage satisfaction that it was not likely that he could be hilled without the the best of the pecket of hasf one, practically sure to be armshed. And Tary's information on last was confined to about three sentences from Ghall, and one expension. And the picture of the hard Queen had drawn. That we may like he word, Black here. Black here all the hard.

phenomenom in the United States and guess that the Barkutan use of leaf was workuly inefficient. With a cigarettelighter he could do better. The door opened again. The commander of the guard of hence was back.

He saluted profoundly. "The kinz has made the proclamation you requested. He has appointed a place for the combat He has given Es-Souk and-conduct, and Es-Souk has appeared from hiding in the conduct of the conduct o

and Es-Souk has appeared from hiding in the form of a rug on the sudiencechamber floor and prepares filmself for battle."

"Very well," snapped Tony, "I'll go

follow immediately.

The dyien captain saluted again, with encemous formality, and withdrew for the second time.

the second time.

SOMETHING stirred on the floor. A
cockroach waggled its feelers in-

constraint weighted the fectors importingly turned into an explosively expanding mistiness, and condensed again as Abdul.

"Lord!" said the stout drive implor-

ingly "Hear me but a moment! The walk of this palace hear and report to the king! I asked to obey you. The king will know. If you do not agreet me and protect me, I am leaf!"
Tony shrugged.
'Unleas,' he saud skeptically, "this is
more of your king's countiving!"
I swear by the board of the Proph
and of they way enough to justify

"I swear by the beard of the Prophet!" panted Abdul. "Traly, Lord, I can be most useful! Protect me, Lord, and you will have the fleetest house, the assistant hound... I will carry you to

awiftest bound . . . I will carry you to the place of comian! I will bring you the fairest woman! I will steal checkem- " said Tony. "I suspect I did "Hm . . . " said Tony. "I suspect I did

talk too fast. Where is this place of combat, anyhow?"

"I know, Lord! I will take you there—"Then," said Tony, "let's get storted."

"Then," said Tuny, "let's get started."
"This way, Lord." planted Abdal. "I
bey you, Lord, protect me until we are
free of the pulses—and after. Indeed I
spake too soon. Here—the window,
Lord. ..."

He rhited the window. With an implering gesture for Tony to follow, he jimped out. Tony walked to the window and looked out. "Tarre was no sign whatever of Abdul—bit a wide starrway led to the ground from the windows. Tony awang up and tested it with his foot. It hald. He west dawn. In-

stantly he touched the earth the stairway collapsed into a cloud of dust whole coalesced and was Abdul again. He wrong his bands. "I should have waited," he said miserably, "Indeed, the king will call me a trastor. But if you are truly the most trastor. But if you are truly the most

traitor. But if you are truly the most powerful—I am your stack, Lard!" He was There was a ripping, a shifting, a breefdering alteration of place surfaces and colors, and is was a highly suitable horse, Inly saidful and caparisoned. The horse came truting to You've tide and wanted for him to

monust. He put his foot on the stirrup and heaved his leg over. "Okay so far," he said grimly. "Full speed ahead?" The horse—Abdul—broke into a headlong run which was convincingly like real panis. It headed away from the

some apprehension. Word of the approaching due to the death had evidentby apreed. Out of the gateway of the pulse the discose pourse. They were every one of the eccentric shapes from had noted in the line of courtgers welcoming him the night before. There were still seene wearing the shapes of hisman women—shose who had shared for him the inghit before. And as they

for him the fight before. And as they were altapsed were adapted for three years and the property of the prope

seats at the spectacle.

When the horse stopped Yony swang cut of the audile, and the 'short, fat dyon of the tarken reappared. He was utterly obleful.

"Leed," he said hitterly, "my life is in your hands! If you do not win this battle, the king will surely exceute me, in Ea-Smk's stead! I beg you to congrein this battle!"

Tony weited his finger to gauge the direction of the wind. He made sure of his handkeethir. He attorped and picked up a pair of medium-sized steems and shapped them in his pocklet. Then he waited.

He was in a huge, natural amphithes.

trs some four miles long by two wide. In 8000 was practically desect and All about, on the mountainmides, were perched the didnes. The forement rows were dots, but auccessive rearward rows were largest to get better viceus, until at the very back tall whirlwinds spun ensemb, reaching over higher for full

vision of what was to come. The last arrivals settled into place The entire drive nation watched, Abdul

despairingly shivered, and turned himself into a small stone, indistinguishable from any other. Tony waited in the center of the vast open space. And waited.

## And wasted.

ONY'S connecience said bitterly that since he was pring to be killed anyhow. he might as well make a fight for R ; but of he'd only listaned at any smyle instant since Mr. Emurian offered him two

thousand dollars for than ten-durhim He swore softly. He felt singularly abourd, standing in the middle of a desty, sandy plain with a cigarettelighter clutched in his hand, two small stones in his pocket, and with a multifrom the mountainsides about, and

misty, obast-like whirtwinds spinning expectantly beyond them. For a long time, nothing happened, "War of nerves," he muttered indig-

nantly. The small stone which was Abdu quivered, and seemed to inflate like a balloon. Abdul appeared in his customary shope, very much agitated "Lord! Do you see him?"

"Not yet," growled Tony. "I suppose he'll fiv to contact as a mosquito and then materialize as a box-constrictor at close quarters. Stand clear if he does." "He cannot do it. Lord," said Abdul nervously. "He can take the shape of an insect, but as an insect he will be too

heavy to fly. Our weight is, the same regardless of our size, Lord."-. "Good!" said Tony, gratified, "Then

centinede, either. He'd bog down." Abdel wrone his bands. "I make too soon when I offered wer my allogiance," he said bitterly. "It is great height as a giant bird-he will need great wing sproud to fiv-and then turn to a stone and drop upon you. That is an accomted form of combat." "Hm . . . thanks," said Tony. "If anything else occurs to you, by all means mention it." Abdul began to shrink. He wailed

JOURNEY TO BARKUY

He was a stone once more. Tony exuld not possibly identify him among the other small stones scattered about. He began to search the sky, and remembered to wet his finger again and recheck the wind-direction. There was were little movement of air, but he

walked down-wind from Abdel and sampped open his cigarette-lighter. Last, as prepared in Barkut, had a distinct. slightly arematic odor. Yony surrounded himself with a faint fragrance of the stuff. He could smash one of the phials of lost yet remaining and make himself But he would certainly have to walk home if he did. And houses, En-Souk could mek un stenes and dron them bomber-fastion, as easily as he could

drop himself. Apparently, though, that amounted that drives were so endowed that they could make anything they chose out of themselves, and therefore did not need to think of using manumate to make Ra-Souk so desperate that he

might begin to have ideac. And still nothing happened. There was what seemed to be a single dark bird in the sky, far away over the moun-The larger a pair of wings might be, the more slowly they would tend to flan-Tony watched. The great bird's wings went downward only once in five secends-st took five seconds for them to make their downward sween, and remowr, and begin another stroke. It

looked as if it were flying in alow mo--tion. Therefore the bird was very large, my coinion. Lord, that he will fly to a and very far away.

LING STORIE

Tony counted:

TONY moded his head. At a guess, Es-Souk had adopted the outward form of a roe, and would gun as alliting of some ten or twives thousand frest in that shape. Then he might transform himself into a havey small stoke and try to brains Tony. But it want'l filled the regaing or correct his line of full ones, and guing or correct his line of full ones.

certain amount of dispersion in their Insniration struck Tony. He took off cost. When in human form, drives were was apt to be forgetful. But the clothes they created were a part of them. Hire their levels and their weapons. They might know the theory of elothing, but in practice for Tony to take off his topcoat might confuse Ra-Souk. He coat or at Tony houself. And bundes, if if the roc was Es-Souk, he probably couldn't see too clearly at the height he'd attained. Tony draped his cost over a small, sparsely-leaved both that startlingly grew in the middle of this waste. He atood back. He was giving Ex-Souk

two targets to choose from, and the need for choice might be upsetting. Apparently, it was. The great hird soured in circles for minutes. Then it dived lower, for a hetter look. Teny stood as still as his ten-cost. He could see the shape of the huge fiving thing. It was like a giant eagle, only vastly more terrifying. Its body would be seventy or eighty feet long. Its wines would have the spread of a four-metered bomber. Its claws would have the orin of half-a-dozen shann-showels in one And its talons would be needle-shorp and more than three feet long. Decided, by, at close quarters, it wouldn't be any-

thing to argue with—

It vanished. Completely. Es-Souk had turned himself into a small round stone hurtling downward from the sky.

"One—two—three—"
Give the stone time to pick up speed in free fall. The time a parachuting

in free full. The time a parachuting filer waits before he opens his parachute, "Eight-nine—ten—Geronius!" said

He ran like the devil for futy yards, stopped, and watched the appt where he had been. Then his paw dropped open. His top-cast was running like the devil, too. The bush on which he had draped it was in full hight. As he stared, he can the twinkling of pink legs under it. Then his top-coat stopped, and turned, and he saw Nasim in human form inside it. She waved early to him.

waved guly to him.
"Helio!" she called brightly. "I'm helping, too!"

Something smacked the desert a mighty blow. Dust arose as from a bomb-explosion. A concussion-wave spread out with such power that Tony set a paff of wind, and the top-cost went saling from around Nasins. She had been forpetful again. She went after the cost and picked it up, swringing it cheerily in one hand as abe turned to watch.

k Es-Souk area from the cratic which the had made so a stone. He had a new-form. He was huge and—now—black and terrible to behold. He was a guint to debury flesh with four-foot tusks and a hands whose clawed finger-tips were deet in length of the land to the

ere, with of t

THE giant hellowed, but Tony sprinted peen faster for hand-to-hand contact.

And the djams could not quite take it.
Tony's challenge had included so furicular an insuli to the entire djuns a ratio hatit could not possibly be a bluff—and now has confident unbit to close in one.

Es-Souk was daunting.

Es-Souk spurted upward into a whirtwind half-a-mile high. He materialized JOURNEY TO BARKUT

as a rice at the top of this column of sauly wherling air. The rest of the whirelyind flashed upward to be absorbed in the bird's body. It was an admersable techmical solution of the upward of a queek blood for an large a lying creature, the column of the column of the column sent the rec souring away. Es-Soul was sent the rec souring away. Es-Soul was to do. To cover his molecision, he suddenly awayed and made what looked shelp awayed and made what looked shelp awayed and made what looked

to do. To cover his indeclaine, he saiddenly awnoped and made what looked like a dive-tomber plunge for Tony.

It was utterly beribbt to watch. The meastrone creature, its incredibly curved beak gaping, plunged for him in ravening ferousity. Its claws were stretched

to rend and tear. It was as perfectly enculated to impore panie as any sight could possibly be.

Teary faced at, He had a phual of leaf in his handleerthief, now. In the handkerchief, too, were the small stones he'd packeted. He hadd the cigarette-flighter in Kill left hand. His ruth stripeed that

an analysis innecession bonds. At the last instant he'd sevens, cruick the pland he instant he'd sevens, cruick the pland he instant he'd sevens, cruick the pland he instant he in the plant he instant he in the plant he instant he in the plant he instant he instan

in clouds about Tony, blinding him. He found himself almost buried to his knees as the sand settled about him. The ree was flapping into the sky again. Nasim yan up to Tony, beaming

and offering him the cost.

"You're wonderful!" she said adoringly, "What are you going to do nest!
And what do you want me to do?"
He said miligrantly:

"You shouldn't mor into a private fight like this, Nasim?"
"Oh, do let me help!" she pleaded.
"Hell!" said Tony. "Put on some

""Holf" said Tony. "Put on something! Put on the coat! How do you enpert use to keep my mind on fighting?" was one instant when a bigs, feathered The rog whech was Ra-Spak made a beel you directly below hims—a body to

a purpose, a new purpose. He'd seem Tomy strungting upout of the sand, So Es-Souk cause back only yards above the electric surface, his meastrous wirgs should be supposed to the same structure of the same structure of speed. Then, such fifty feet from Tony, he wough his wings within thy about, and not only thereigh in one yarded and sent hisself. thereigh in one yarded and sent hisself, which will be supposed and sent hisself, which will be supposed to the same supposed was branch teached by the fore he realted what was happening. Re-Souk had the street of the middle you was a first of the same streets of the middle you've had not a street of the middle you've had not you had not street of the middle you've had not you had not street of the middle you've had not you had not street on the middle you had not you

He worked his way clear, Nastin palling anxiously at him—with the top-coatting anxiously at him—with the top-coatting like a bubble appeared med sensediurs' farm. Abdul appeared and sensety with sand-grains dripping from his turban. He spottered and walled:

"I know I spoke too seen! . . Lord!
Next time he will bury you, and you will
see smother, sed them what will I do?"
Int Eo-Souk wherled again, low-down,
and shat back toward Tony again.
Naum said firmb:

Name and firmly:

"Det't be so stoped, Abdul! Turn
The source! into a griffin, with a saddle, and
He let him ride you to fight Ea-Souk in the

Abdid blinked and healthy drew a deep broath. He expanded, to a large round object with no identifiable features. He contracted to something that Tony could be did not examine. He saw wings and a saidile and a long, serpentine tall. He made a dash for the addle, awong into

XV

st SYARTLING STORIES

tion of being an insect chance by an incath. Just as in an airpiane one has no semantion of beingth, so on this peculiar ing. There were great, veined wings mount to felt as if he were in some sen-

ing. There were great, vicined wings beating on either side, there was a scaly body below him, doubtlessly a screpentise setail behind him, and a long, maky neck in front with α bead he could not see clearly.

clearly.

That neck twisted and a specifically indefinite face appeared—or rather, did not appear. It leoked like mist, yet there were eyes in B, and Abdul's plaintive water are to be a book of the bast of the common that the plaintive area.

weice came to Tony above the best of mighty wrogs.
"Lord," said Abdul miserably, "if you have some weapon to use against Es-Souk, if you tell me how you wish to use

Souk, if you tell me how you wish to use it, I will try to give you the opportunity. If you do not win this fight, Lord, I am ruined!"

"I've got a weapon, all right," said

Tony. "I'd intended to use it on the ground, away from you and Nasim. It's pretty deadly to any dross anywhere nearby."

Abdul made a mounting sound.

"But if anything happens to you," said Teny, "I'll have a many-full. Sobin . . . get us seene horight, and then if you can let Es-Souk dive at me from behind, I think I can use my weapon soyou won't be affected."

you won't be affected."

The desert shrank as the unhamed creature into which Abdul bad transformed himself strove desperably for hught. Form found a strap hitched the saddle, sutended to make the rider secure in bis place. He fastened it and fell ketter. He saw the roc. far below.

beginning to beat upward with furious strokes of its long phisins.
He tucked away his eigerette-case and got out his two stones and the handlerchief and the full phial of last. He rearranged the stones and the phial in the

arranged the stones and the phial in the handkeychief. He tied the whole together, tagging at the corners of the handkerchief with his teeth. The combination made a fairly handy if exemtife hand-grounds. But of course it could

tric hand-greenade. But of course it could Abdul?"

not possibly explode. The roc flatte

Then be watched with an unnatural folding them, as

sensation of height, so on this peculiar mount be felt as if he were in some sensational illusory ride in an amusementpark. He even examined the creature he reds, while the mountaintops grew level with him and then asaik a thousand feet or more below.

"Abdul! To said. "What on sorth are.

you, anyhow? I've never seen anything filter that?"

Abdul asid miserably:
"I bad indigestion one night, Lord, and dreamed this. So I practiced making myself into it. It has been much admired. The teach of having the crea-

ture possess no actual, visible face is considered very effective, and i—i thought at one time that Massim was much impressed by it. But she became betrethed to Es-Soule. I think, Lord, that the form I wear might be called a

Trey said:
"Nesim liked it, eh? . . . here comes
En-Soult Level off, Abdul, and let him
get of our tail. When he comes diving
I'll do my stuff, and when I yell you
pit on the heat. Get away from there
fast Understand?"

"Aye, Lord." And then Abdel waited from that mixty emptiness which was the chimar-is face, "If I ever get out of this, I will never speak so soon agains! I will never offer allegiance to any other..."

THE very mountains seemed like touddroke below them. Tony could see over uncountable square miles of desert and footbills. He even thought he saw a dark saudge against the horszonwhich might be the easis and the city of Barket.—
Tony felt a shadow full upon him the shadow of the res, a througant feet

shove. It screamed at him.
"Get set now," said Tony, between his
toeth. "Ready—let's go! He's diving,
Abdull"

Abdul?"

The roc flattened its wings, partly folding them, and came rushing down

JOURNEY TO BARKUT in a deadly plunge. Actually, Es Scuk the little object so flying down the two-

he had enected so herribly that-knowto the very last atom of his fissionsble being. But since Tony was now some twelve thousand feet above ground-level, kill him even more surely than by tearme him limb from limb. A furious assoult wron Abdul in some tender member, should make the drine-chimsers reart in typical diffes fashion-by metamorphosis. Abdul could definitely be forced to shange to something else. And he would forget to include Tony's saidle and sefety-helt in his new shape, and

was still at least partly bloffed. Tony

had been too confident, and Es-Sook was

a carry driver. He'd had one experience of hand-to-hand fighting with Tony, and

and swerve and the thewing-up of one of Abdol's chimaren-wines. In sheer age by changing form, and-"Realize Abdol!" commanded Trees" "He's not summer fast enough!" Abdul slowed-and the ree gained Cleacy\_closer\_its error heak gaming. It was almost time for the swerve and the plashing attack which would would Tony plunging some two miles and more to death-

the ditel

Tony abouted, "New, Abdul! Brake Abdul braked Chimaeras are extraordinarily maneuverable creatures. in mid-air. The roc almost crashed into him, its cavernous beak widening in awful mentice.

Actually, the roc's beak was no more than twenty feet away when Tony squeezed hard on his unprovised bomb, felt the plaza crench-and heaved the cloth-wrapped missile into the gaping threat. It was an excellent shot. He saw

Then he felt as if has neek would soon off. Abdul took evasive action. It becan with an optside loop that made the safety-belt creak hideously, was followed by a wine-over at the bottom, and then continued as a recover-dress in which the wind went pouring into Teny's open forcibly inflated. . But even then he looked back. .The roe was metionless, as if paraveed by some awful shock. But the pa-

"Boger!" reared Tony, "Step on it!

yard onen cullet to its may

the already hope form expended still more. It atmosted ecovolularly. It anessed. In its struggling it had not stayed on an even keel. The sneeze had Tony would thump into the desert beall the propulary effect of a high-temlow in a completely conclusive finish to pensture fet. It kicked the suddenly So the rec plunged savagetly-sumshoneless chiest violently higher. It writhed. It struggled again, very horincluder Tray has intending a last-see, ribly. It seased to be a bird. It was impossible to say what it was! Another convulsion even more violent than the first. The almost amorboid object shot higher-it had pseudopods now, which by but with terrific force. A second convulsive sneeze exected so huse a volume of air with such violence that the dynan' was shot up a good five thousand feet.

> C'8-SOUK was maddened, now, with the knowledge of his doorn. He went into lunctic evrations which turned into flight straight unward. But he flew now not by wings or any motion of any memhers, but by the lightning swift neotrusion of a threadlike pseudopod far ahead and the equally lightning-like flowing of all his substance up to and into it, and the instant repetition of the process. Even home as he now was he rose an swiftly as to dwindle as Tony watched-At ten rales altitude there was a convulsive sidewise jerking of the climbing

thing. Another success. He continued to

shoot frantically skyward. Twenty miles

STARTLING STOR

up . . . he was probably a quarter-male across, but he become a speck which could barely be distinguished-Then he bless up. He must have been

fifty miles high, at least. He was in the upper troposphere. And he must have weighed several hundred pounds. Perhans not all his substance disintegrated. towate with one hundred per cent conversion of their mass into free energy. Es-Souk's efficiency as a bomb was probably less than that of purified UZI5 or platonium. But the flare was colossal. There was a sensition of momentary.

terrific heat. No sound, of course. The explosion took place where the air was too thin to carry sound. For the same reason there was no concussion-wave. But the flash of Fu-Soul's detonation was several times brighter than the ounand a dozen times the sun's diameter. Minutes later, Abdul came rather beavily to a landing on the depart. Tony dismounted. About normed to dissolve

suddenly and run together, without any intermediate state to restore the discu to his short, swart, human form, with the turben aton his head. He was frombling. . "Lord!" he said in a shaking voice. "I did not know how terrible was your so much more powerful than the most powerful of dynns. Indeed, Lord, I amissine for regretting that I offered my allegiance. I did not speak too soon

Lard! I did not speak soon enough! And you are my king and my ruler for always!" Tony swallowed. That flare in the midday sky had been unnerving "All right, Abdul," he said. "We'll-let it go at that. You've been worried about

protection. As fay as I can. I'll give it. to yea-"Protection, Lord?" said Abdel, beaming. "It is I who will be beezed for nontection now! My friends who have seen Ea-Souk destroyed will come to me begdestroy them also! You will let me boast before them, Lord? After all, I was the chimaera on which you rode when you destroyed Fa-Stok in such a marrier that no others of the draw were harmed! I did help you, to the best of my poor abdited?

"Naturally," brean Tony, Then Nasm's voice came to him "You carried him, Abdul," said Nasim proudly, "which is what a drive should do for his king. But I played the part of a proper dyease, too! . I held his cost!" Torry turned to her. He organted the

belted-in-the-back camel's-hair coat. "That was very nice of you, Nasim. I appreciate it a lot. But won't you

## please rut on some clothes?"

HE unlace of the diles king wasn't what it had been. Not only the disease officially off-duty, as it were had attended Tony's duel with Es-Souk; guardenen also had quietly transformed figures into gazelles, whirlwinds, lions, and other swiftly-moving creatures toattend the sporting event. The court. ownerally, had negred out to see the ruckes. And in addition, various disease

serving as towers, ninnacles, rooms, articles of furnitrire and nicts, rurs. hangings, plumbing fixtures and strucsupporting the state and majesty of the signed positions in the structure after it was all over, but some did not. In consequence, from the official lodging of the Ozeen of Barkut, the all-encirchne

palace looked ragged. Here an art-gallery was exposed to the bisging senshine. There the more intimate arrange, ments of the drive monarch's scraglio were in plain view. And the dusty, thin-

ly grassed meadow within the palace looked like a country fairground on esening day. Some thousands of dilens ging me to intercede that you do not

JOURNEY TO BARROT milled about, in all the diverse shapes that perfectly normal, perfectly stable and forms their personal preferences compounds like lost would act chemicaldictated. Some talked. Some argued. A by on drivers. The results, though-of few\_exers at such a marriers\_mode "Chemically?" queried the Queen

such remantic overtures to other mem-Ghail stood still, looking strangely at hers of the race of opposite weater or might have been expected. But on the whole, the several-thousand-odd dilens eathered beyond the Queen's vegetable

He made his report to the Queen, drinking coffee in her cottage. Ghall moved about estensibly assisting the Queen in serving him, but actually lintening avidly and looking at him from time to time with widely varying ex-

"The devil of it is," said Tony querulously, "that matead of making me unpopular, folling Es-Souk sorms to have made me something of a bere!" The Queen nedded.

"They're like children," she said sagely. "Just like children,-or ares, Much like horses too Dinne are great fun! They make lovely Sets when you under-

atand them!" Tony's expression lacked something of full sympathy. . "Somehow," he admitted, "just persensily, you understand, I can't imagine

wanting to pet a quarter-ton of fissionable material, whether it was in the form of a chimsera or a cute little moth's see hiding in a crack until the time was ripe for conversation." "I still don't see," said the Queen, brightly, "just how you set him off-

this Es-Souk, that is, Is it a secret of the royal family of your nation?" "I didn't intend to set him off," he admitted. "I did think I might pin his I didn't anticipate an atomic explosion-But it does make sense, after a fashion,

After all, when anything's put into an atomic telle it becomes radioactive, and a radioactive substance isn't immune to · like ordinary matter except for its radio-activity. So it's reasonable enough

"Of course," said Tony, "I had you draw me a picture of the insf-leaf. Remember? And I recognized it. We have that plant in my country. We call it how,

weed, or ragweed. It's a pest to some humans." The Queen listened. Tony drank more coffee.

"Rapwood," he said, "Specting, You anoint your weapons with it. The drings

I'd drunk some of the stuff the other day and that night Es-Souk trued to strangle me, and I coughed. And he speeced. That's ragwood, all right! The nollen is worst of all. It hits same hu-

man people too. You see !" The Queen said brightly: "I fear not, Lord Toni,"

"Ragwood; speering; hay-fever," explained Tony. "The drings are subject to hay-fever. It's an altergy. A racial trait. Ragweed, which doesn't bother most humans, is deadly polson to them. Like DDT to bues. It's so strong a por-You people have been wasting the stuff. You're symbled goes and bullets with it. It dried, and by the time you got to where you were going to fight the dinns, most of it was gone. They ran

away from the dried, dusty remains that by pure accident stuck to your weatons. You see? That night in my bedroom ! had the stuff on my breath. When I coughed, En-Souk got a whiff of it. And I floured that if so little of it would chase him, the real stuff tossed down his throat would really so to town. And it

did!" TE LOOKED hopefully at them But

He knew to Arabic word for "allergy" or "hay-fever" or "pollen," or for "radioactive" or "flusionable" or "atomic." Even the English word "rapweed" in an Arabic context did not seem to mean log to the Queen or Ghail. To the two of them, he seemed to be speaking gaits sincerely about matters so studits as to be beyond their under-

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ing gate sincerey about matters to etudite as to be beyond their understanding. And at that it would have taken him a week to clarify the word "allergy." They would never have understoof DDT. The queen dismissed the explanation.

explanation.
"Doubtless it is clear to you, Lord-Toni," she observed, "but we poor women find it too involved; You speak of the masks and arts of your own nation.

en find it too involved: You speak of the magies and arts of your own nation. What shall you do now?"

Tony blinked. Then he remembered his anger.

his anger.
"I'm going to see the king," he said indigmantly. "He arranged that business of Es-Scuk's scoape, dammit! He expected to get me killed, with himself in the clear! I'm going to give him the

expected to get me kined, with himself in the class? I'm going to give him the 'devil! And if he acts up," he added trusslently, "I'll blow on my ciparettelighter? That will hardly set him off, but it'll scare him green?"

The Queen looked hard at Tony. Then she exchanged an astonished glance with Ghal.

Have you looked out the door?\* she asked soitly.

Tony looked, and grew uncomfortable. "Do they have autograph hunters here, too?"

Ghail said firmly, "I do not know whether you are as attuild as you pre-

tend, but certainly you had better go out and speak to those djesne! They are impressed enough now!"
"Impressed!"

"Impressed!"

Ghall said examperatedly, "Get up! Go
out! Let them how down to you! Than,
if you wish, you can go to see the king!"
But as he stood up with a bewildered
expression, she said bottly, "You are
very wonderful!"

"What?" He looked intredulous, and than turned swritly to the Queen, "Ob, yes! Chail selfs me, Majesty, that she is your personal slave and can't be sold or gives, without your content. I'dlern like to have a business conversation Ghail stamped her foot. "Get—out!" Tony looked incredidpus again. He went reluctably out of the door... A holl elephant charged toward him from fifty foot away. Tony took one look and reached for his cigarette-case. Them the elephant changed sincethly into some thousands of hillfand halls intred.

with you sooner or later."

some thousands of fulfard balls in red, green, blue, black and pink, which swept onward in a clarking tide of bawilderingly intricate motions upon and against each other. The balls shrade as they redied. Then, suddenly, they jorked to a halt and into the rotund, turbanned, swaggering form of Abdul in one in-

"Majesty!" said Abeil, bearing.
"Your people are gladened by the night
of you! Will you deign to accept their
allegiance now, or will you make a more
formal ceremony?"
Troy said:

was invited to this place to see the king! I'm not pleased with him! If I've got to have an interview with him! If I've got to have an interview with him, I want to get it over with! Then I'll go back to Barkut seems with! Then I'll go back to Barkut seems truce will be ended, and come back and start tearing things up. I've a sort of obligation—"Wassetty" protested Abbill. "You

He wasn't bluffing. The event of an boar or so ago, plus Innumerable other oddfides, but created in him a sort of fanntic disbelled in common sease. It suddenly occurred to him that his consequence hash't said one word to him since the fight with Es-Souk. It did not seem possible that his massden sauth's acid creation had onsed to exist—but atill—

He winced.

His conscience was marling bitingly that it was still on deck; but that his JOURNEY TO BARKUT

activities were so illimitably remote from sanity that they had no moral aspact at all. But, said his conscionceand it seemed to rause its voice-when it came to trying to make a husiness deal for the ownership of a noor slave-girl whose morals were demonstrably so much superior to his own-

with his conscience negging at him. More natural. IE MARCHED toward the palace, Abdul aguittled around before him and awaggered, v ing his arms imperiously for the tring of a way.

There was a swarm...g of djimes to be slone to the point of his passage. It was a singular experience for Toyy to walk through the mob in a lane cleared for him as if by maric, and to feel upon himself the respectful axid starings of so many eyes. There were animal's faces für from either. There were hirds and reptiles and quaint assemblanes of prorelated parts into forms which-like Abdul's chimacra— had probably been dreamed up by their wearers of the moment. There were also three distances, side by side, still in the same female human forms they had worn the night

before. They were an odd fliustration of the female fondoess of fostoon, because the night before their forms had included the eauxy draperies of Arab duncing-girls. Now that was changed. Nasim's part in the victory over Es-Souk had been seen and noted. The three diffensees paid her tribute as a leader of fashion. Beaming at Tony as he passed. they displayed the new style Nasim had set amone the lady drives: They were, exclusively, pink skin.

Tony was vory much emharrassed. . But he did notice that one of the three

had quite nice legs. She wazn't as bellbottomed as most, either. Tony and Abdul walked through the palace. There were places where there was no langer a med. The roof-mambers

they had waited for Tony to meak to them. There were places where there were no walls. There was one and where even all flooring had vanished, and Tony saw with some aster/shment that heneath the very fabric of the royal palace of the drive, there was sparse orang and sandy soil, as if this particular part of

Tony straightened up. He felt better Abdul made a dignified flourish before the chasm. He leaned agolely outward into emptiness in what might have been a graceful awan-dive-and unfolded himself as a nortable suspension-bridge that neatly spanned the gam. Tony walked across. He did not quite turn in time to see the response by which Alidal

returned to his more normal form. "Malesty," said Abdul blandly, "have you made your plans as yet?" "Eh? Plans? Hm-not vet." said."

"I am the first of your servants and subjects, Majesty," Abdul told him plously. "I beg you to trust in me for a time-at least until you find a better!"

"All right. But why do you call me

He stormed As he spake, he had passed through a doorway. It was but one of dozens he had allowed Abdul to lead him through. But this was different. He had come unannounted and unwittingly into the audienco-hall of the King of the Drive. It was a colossal six hundred feet long. Its walls blazed with all the phony grandeur the drives assigned to wall-duty could imagine. It was very mamuficent indeed.

THE group of diverse at its far end was less magnificent. There were but half a dozen of them. They were outbreed timerously about one of their number. who was notently their king. And he fumbled with what Teny suddenly had seen in any dynen's hands. It was were out in the prison-meadow where the only accustory he had noted which was not a part of the diffus who wore

This object was distinctly non-dife-

uses. The ancient divine who clutched it To judge by the grown on Ess hand and various other royal insegnia, he could be none but the drive king in person. had ever seen who really looked old. A but the King of the Division was no langer . even able to think of himself as young, He was very ancient indeed, and he was hideously ugly-Tony heard later that there was a trace of servet blood in him -and he fumbled querulously with an object which surely no drive had ever

It was a device of glass and corroded bronze and other metals. The class part of it was remarkably familiar. It was exactly the share of one of those floores-

surface an image appears in a tolevision set. The yest of it was completely eryptie to Tuny. There were coils, and there was according that could be a condeneven be betteries, in age-blackened bronze rases. But the whole was old teries could not be expected to hold a charge after as meny conturies as the notine on the bronze amplied

"Greeting?" said Tony sternly. He had his digarette-lighter handy The disas king looked up with an

elderly start. Then he scowled portentorsly. -"Rah! The busian Lord Tord," be rumbled "You have betrayed my-hosultably, human! It well for you that I are merciful! But you are my quest! Therefore I take no vengeance on you in my own house. But your carnel will return you to Barket within the hour! The truce between me and Barkut ends! !

have me murdered because you learned that my nation ma't troubled with diluna! You were afrual I might lead Barkut to security! But your planned murder backfired, so new you'll try the some thing openly?" Then he bluffed "And how do you propose to destroy --Barkst? You have seen what I can do!" ...

THE diffus king glowered at Tony. With somehow the air of one changune containe to a more appropriate garb. he swelled to a greater size. Tusks appeared between his lim. His complexion became a chastly blue. Horns showed on his head. The armor which appeared at the same time was tastefully decorated with horses shalls. But he still looked old. And Tony felt that he was uneasy. "Human!" he mared "See you this thing in my hapds? It is the great

treasure of the dileas grown! With this have my differe been boot subject! With . this will I destroy Barkot and the sniveling traiters who how to you! Know you -Tony had a hunch amounting to conviction that the driven king had been puraling over the degree when he entered. He had plainly no great knowledge .. either of machinery or electronics. Tony . had not much more. But he simply could, -

not believe that any device of such great age-could still be in working order. He b'uffed again. "Of course I know what it is!" he said scornfully, "Every low drinking-place in my nation has one! You look in the

large and of the tube!" Speaking of the device as a televisionset, Tony apole with strict truthfulness. But he felt the seriding tension in the dileas about the king grow suddenly less. The king himself relaxed visibly. "Ho!" rumbled the king zestfully. "That was a mafter I knew! I knew that! Ha! I but tested you to see if you truly know thin device. Then you shall blot out the memory of the nation? know that with it pointed at a rebellious dysse or a human city, at any distance I may create explosions beside

I shall-" Tony found his eyes hot and angry.

JOURNEY TO BARKUT which the destruction of En-Souk is an It shouldn't work. It positively was too old to work! But if it did-The other elderly diseas about him

laughed unmarigusty. Their mirth was almost hysterically relieved. It sounded as if the drive kine had not known which was the business end of the

HEY started back for Barkut in a state wholly unlike the fashion of their arrival at the dross palace. Abdul

arronged the march. He seemed to dolight in devising elaborate ceremonies. The navade began with dragges, sixty feet long and breathing fire. After them marched a troop of giants carrying very knobbly maces seemingly of iron. which abould have weighed tons. Then a vast, long column of dina camela. each camel the customary twenty feet

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tail and with an impressive pack-load of unstable djinn rickes, the whole draped with cloth-of-sold and similar stuff. Then diffue soldiers, looking remarkably ferocious. Tony and Ghail and the Queen rode in a colornal litter carried between two elephants. It was extremely luxuriouse and the only incongruous note was that the Queen had packed a picnic lunch for the journey in crude earthen pets. They were experted over with sead nearly brocades, however, and did not show.

Such astentation had not been Tony's own idea. Abdul had presented himself fearfully at the Queen's cottage, almost half an hour after the use of last in the audience-chamber. "Mozesty!" said Abdul reproachfully. "If you detonate me, who am the most abject of your subjects, how will the government go on 34

"Government?" Tony stared. "What government ?" "Of the drive," said Abdul, more repreathfully still. "You are my king.

Majesty. You are also king of these others who wait to swear allegiance. And there must be government?" "Held on!" Tony eried, "What's this?

How'd I get to be a king?" "Matesty !" Abdel waved his hands. anneared in garments which were exclusively seed-pearls with, ruby and

melted away, and Tony tombled some four or five feet to the ground. He was abruptly in the open air with the nalace dissolving all about him and whirlwinds darting away in crazy flight in every Farthest, and fleeing festest, seemed

the glow of a firefly !"

had told them.

deadly as mine?"

fragrance of last . . .

gadget. He had been trying helplandy

to figure out how to aim it. And Tony

"Go you back to Barkut," bellowed the

king gleefully. "Yell the humans there

that from my palace I shall destroy

· Tony knitted his brows. He felt cold

prickles up and down his some. He

couldn't believe the thing would work,

as old as it was. But the donne cucht

disast" He remembered Abdul's ween.

ing gratitude out on the sand, after

the duel was over, because only Es-Soule

had nemahed, "Remember what will hap-

pen of by accident you destroy a dring

device. Besides, consider how much more

He snapped open the cigaretto-lighter. He blew gently on the wick. The faint

There was instant, howling panic

Abdul flashed out the door by which he

and Tony had entered. The king and his

countillors fied in turnult. Even the

floor of the audience-hall beaved and

"From your palace? With its walls of

to know! So he said distastefully:

his gadget. Tony hunted anxiously all around. He didn't believe it could work. bot still-

He worried about it as he walked

where the Queen and Ghail were quartered.

te STARTLING STORIES omerald buttons. His turbun emitted a fied with

stight and graceful plume of anjoke, which looked inconflary but—he had explained—was quite safe under all ordinary conditions. "Majesty, it is simple! You, a human, defeated Ra-Scok in sught consists, hand-to-band. The was in the night in Estick! Such

This was in the night in Sarkin! Such a thing his source before happened in the history of the djess. Today yet tought a deal with Ea-South and of the interest of the djess. It is also that the thing of the djess of the djess

sort to this opassire, and on the last three occusion—sequing back more than two-thousand years—in wath does not cause of the secution. And bafers my own eyes and many others you cause of the secution. And bafers my own eyes and many others you cause the former king and his councillers to fisce and a part of his pathon to disolve any element of the path of the pat

suspiriously, "but it isn't air-tight."
"Majesty," repeated Abbail sirmly,
"You can destroy any of us, or you can
spare any of us. Therefore we obey you.
And therefore you are the king. It cannot be helped."
The Queen of Barkut booked at hum.

The Queen of Barkut looked at hur smiling-

"Obviously," she said brightly "Abdul is quite right. And you can end my captivity if you wish. What rewards we peor humsins of Barkut can offer you..."
Teny looked aburply at Ghail. She flushed bottly.

"All right," asid-Tony. "So I'm the king Do we have a civil war, or is my authority manimously scoeped?"
"It is almost manimous, Majesty," said Abdul, beaming. "It may be necessary to detonate the former King That, however, in not yet certain. He has fied with a few of his councillors. They feel that you have a prejudice against them..."
"Intelligent of them," grunted Toxy. "Very well, than! The first thing is to get thail and the Queen back to Berkut.

get Ghall and the Queen back to Barkut.
Then we'll start fresh from there. Do
you want to arrange matters?".

"For what else," asked Abiul blandly,
"did your Mayesly make me your grand
vision?".

HE BOWED to the ground almost immediately after. It set out across the desert with the celerity of drive traffic. mile speed principally because the elephants were nearly five storyes tall. Whirlwinds went-on before, spreading out as scruts on all sides, and overhead some ducers of rocs cruised at different sititudes for an air-umbrella against possible attack his the former king and his half-decen malcontents. It was all crafte proposterops. The elephorit-litter bouse and actually contained two floors. and different compartments on each floor. The Queen nat gracefully under-Ghail sat beside her; her lips tightly however, vernained wrapped up in all

"Lasteni" and Tony. "Aren't you het?"
"I'll do," and Chail omponedly.
"As a slave," and Tony, "the Queen can give you permission to make yourself comfortable. Why not?"
Ghall regarded him community. But the Queen said:

able woman during travel.

the Green isa'd:
"He's rapht, my dear, Why don't you slip out of that dreadfully hat cleak?"
"He," shad Ghad in even tones, "it very fond of leaking at legs. My logs, or anybody elas's legs. And he hasn't any dynnesses with him to sit around like the hasses have are for instance, that differentially and the shades have are for instance, that differentially have been applied to the statement of the shades have are for instance, that differentially have been applied to the statement of the shades have a statement of the shades have been also shades and the shade

mee who held his cost while he fought "That is. Es-Sosk! So he is unbappy?" Then she manded, there do not a froze, "Why don't you get "save, by another littler for yoursieft". All you another littler for yoursieft, All you have to do it command it! Or well get "cook! D out of this littler and ride on cample, and ten't he way out the little a many disease around. Tray on you can have a many disease around.

you as you wan!! You can.—"
Teny soweld. If you're thinking of
Nation... with a make it is the rail of
Nation... with a make it is the rail of
the gently swaping sun-deck. Along-tide, a few hundred yards sway, a
maniber latter kept pase with this law. Tha
was the traveline carriage of Abelia,
was the traveline carriage of Abelia,
was the traveline carriage of Abelia,
what to Tony who was king of
the different carriage who was king of
the different carried by two thirty-food
was metric carried by two thirty-food
them was no target than the cabin of an

completely hidden by allem draperies.
"Abdul!" rearned Teny.

The thirty-foot camels intelligently
swerved to bring Abdul's litter cleaned.
And even so soon, Abdul hid attuned
himself to react instantly to a call in
Tony's vote. Instantly the drapes were
torn saide. Abdul bearned across the
space between Riturs.

less stately than Tony's equipege. When

space between litters.

But for half a breath Tony did not recognize him. Abdul swaggered, of course—but that was part of his personality. It was his form which was creagely, miradilarly from high extragely, miradilarly from high extragely and the substantial form which was no face, a deplicate of Tony. He deal that, his belief on the belief hair topecat, and undoubbelly has feet were encased in depicate of Tony's brown abose. But the face was still the face of Abdul, and it beamed.

Behind him, in the litter, Nasim also beamed at Tony. "Majesty!" cried Abdul happity. "What is your will?"

"Yee, Majesty," called Nasim archly. She came and stood beside Abdul. "Look! Dosen't he leek just like you? Inst' be wonderful?"
Tony said steenly:
"It was my thought that I had not yet rewarded Nasim for her sid in the right with Re-Souk. I see that she has

"That is Nasim isn't it?" he de-

chosen her raward. It is my will that the two of you marry!"

Natin giggled. Abdul bowed so low that he almost fell out of the litter.

"To hear is to obey, Majesty?"
"And it is also my will," said Tony
severely, "that if at any time in the
future Nazim comes into my presence,

she must have some clothes on! After all, I'm human!"
"Aye, Majesty!" asid Abdul. Nasim coyly pulled a drape about herself. "That's all!" said Tray.

He turned his back. The camel-litter awarved away. The Queen seemed to be trying to stille laughter. Ghall looked utterly infariated.

"Well" said Teny.
"If the Queen," and Ghall furiously,
"On mands that I scerrifee my medesty
to the King of the Djeun, so that he can
see if he wishes to purchase me—
"Tone said just as sagrify:

in "Fale on I haven't talked business to the Queen, yet! But "I'll talk it now?" He turned to the mechanismed Queen. "Majecty, I moderated that I'm the control of the properties of the propert

The Queen almost choked on her implier, Ghail's face went blank. She stared incredulously at Teny. "And—and then what?" asked, the

What is your will?" Queen.

Tony stared—and inspiration struck. "Then," said Tony deggedly, "I'll try

to persuade her to marry me. 'It isn't Airded suffeed out item the sandy creethat I'm too damped moral, but I don't tion of his nightmare, with its face of think I'd like benefit kisses however mest. There was the saddle so before legal the transaction might be in thus Tony climbed into it and buckled the

"And-and if she would not marry you?" asked the Queen. Tony Inches at Chail Her face was

critison, and though there was no perceptible softening in her expression, her eyes showed distinct satisfaction. "If she wooldn't marry me," said Tony shrewdly. "then-I guess I'd have to take an interest in music. After all, I

understand that East and Eaim have protty good voices," The satisfaction vanished from Charlis expression. Fury came back,

"I thought," she observed in detached scorn. "that you would not care for purchased kisses." "But I didn't buy Emr and Esim,

said Tony. "They were gifts? That's Then he ducked. A dark shadow flashed must oberhead, so close that viwas the monstrous body of a roc sourtouched ground almost directly before the leading elephant' shivered, and be-

probably the distains aur-force uniform He raced toward the elephant-litter. "Enemy "Mojesty!" he hellowed drivens sighted overhead! Closing fast?"

Abdot and reared for a ladder. Instood the elements trunk of the year elephont swuris around and held itself invitingly ready. Tony accombled on beard. Abdul bounced out of his litter in a wild lean; turned into something unusual on the way to the carth, and landed with a sulcabing of sand. He

"Majesty!" he said, hearning, "The chimaera form for this conflict?" "And make it snappy!" Tony rasped

"I don't thenk anything drastic can hau-

The chimages leveled off, Tony's heart

faces for support. But they went up and Tony was relieved. He had only one full phial of feet, and he was highly trick of the fight with Es-Souk. Certamly he couldn't handle half a desern derens with one misrovised bomb, and if they attacked with any resolution at

The air grew thin as the chimaera

"Go ahrad!" he commished.

ward into the blue.

There was a sensation of almost un-

bearable acceleration and he rode up-

At five thousand feet they passed the

first flight of roos. The great birds

wheeled axide to make room for them

and then craned their necks to watch.

At ten thousand feet Abdul and Tony

From this baight Tony could distinctly

see the masis and the eleamine white

walls of Burket. Still the chimeera

burtled skyward. At fifteen thousand

feet the ceiling squadron of rocs was

Abdol turned his temporarile analty

Now Tony saw the drinn king and his " few faithful councillors. They were not

recommissible so such of course With?

the chamsers climbing venerfully toward there they had adopted the emer-

gency measures Es-Scok's last frenzies

had led to: They were now mere shaneless objects which flew straight up with

lightning-like amorboid movements.

and they peeded to act muon greater sur-

neck about and said triumphantly; -"Matesty! They field From us!"

left behind.

up and up-

climbed Tony found himself panting .

"Easy, Abdult" be gasped. bigber! This is enough?"

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oxygen at this height. He felt dixty. He sucked in great guips of the unsatisfying thin stoff. Then he heard Abdul saying appreciatively: "Parden, Majesty! I had forgotten

"Partico, Majoriy! I had forgotten that even you will not wish to be too close to your enemies when they explode!"

#### -

Number of the state of the stat

He understood. Not only was his own was no mysterius to the dyine, so that even Abdul expected him to attice down the fugitives from afar, but there was no open. The form afar, but there was no open of a momentarily indortable has the manner of the form and dimmed the was not given of a momentarily indortable has the would often at his reballious subjects at a distance, he must expect a such more terrible catacitysts below. He would got a far away as possible, though he had a far away as possible, though he ind

port.
The chimacra scared in huge, easy circles. Abdal said inquaringly:
"Majesty? They have not exploded."
"I—can't see them," said Tony ab-

surdly.

He clung to his saddle, ponting.
Staying up here was a blidf, while he
clung to two possible hopes. Perhaps
the drives king could not gaske the
atteent weapon werk—that was Tony's
first hore. If nothing basened at all.

be would go on down and explain that he had made the former king powerkes, and now sparred his life. The second hepe was fainter. The instrument had be-wifeered its peaseaser. The king actual to the head of the second hepe is hadded in one which and was which. And Tony had hid him quite trushings, the head of the hea

as the contest glass object he saw. Now, againgt for breath, he hoped very fervently that his advice would be tables, and that it would be bud. He resulted very vagoely that a tolevision-tube that the second state of the second contest of the

Very high and far away, it seemed that the heaven burst. One splash of a refer flame flaated into being, not directly overhead out near the horizon. The seement of the control of the con

and there was a second, and then two more, and them there. They went off neural leastly, but like freezeshers set off type-deed, its the cycle of the heights, and the second of the control of the contr

The drive king had, after all, been looking into the muzzle of an atomic gun when he pulled its trigger to destroy his spheets.

"You found them Majestyl New none will question your right to reign!" Without orders, he began a swift, slanting descent In the thicker air, Tony's feelings of weakness crossed. But

scenething else occurred to him. He reflected gloomsly that nothing ever hapnens just right. No achievement "is completely satisfying. Each one creates

new worries and new troubles. 'At five thousand feet, Abdal said:

"Majesty!" "What?" seked Tony "You will marry the Queed of Bar-

kut?" asked Abdul., "It seems the logical thing to do. May I begin to make plans for the wedding, Majesty?" "Marry the Orman?" Tony shock his bead. His new approbensions bit him hard. "No! I'm not thinking of the Queen-when I worry about what the-

#### have done to me! Not a bit of it! I'm thinking of somebody clas entirely!"

HE arrival of the disas caravan created terror in Barkut. Practically the - whole dress nation-Tony learned that sand subjects-came steaming out of the vastness which was the desert. The whirlwind scouts were sighted from the city walls. The arroraft curtain of rocs was sighted at the same time. When the caravan deployed before the city walls, fires of sulphyrous material

burned on the battlements, the city's last · supply of jost had been served out, and the people of Barkut were prepared to defend themselves to the but drep of

There were the same people who only danced in the streets to celebrate the defeat of a single slices in Teny's b#droom. Now prepared for destruction when they learned that the drives came not for consuest but as a count of honor for the returned Queen of Barkut,

STARTLING STORIES that the Lord Toni who had come away had returned as King of the Drives. their enthusiasm.

Abdul, hustling about, sunceylard the instant crection of a palace for Tony's lodging. It was simple enough, of course, a modest little overnight but of some two hundred and forty morns with floars of

afternating gold and ivory squares, windows of sapphire and emerald and ruter. and a roof of jade and silver bearing fountains that apraved milk, wine, honey, and diamond dust. Some three hundred drives apportioned the structhemselves into the necessary sections and decorations, and the thing was done. It was waiting for Tony when he came "Manesty!" said Abdul honoity. "We

were worried that you might not be adequately served in Barket. You should at least have let a few hundred of your servants so before you with golden basins filled with jewels and the "I sm." said Tony, "a person of, simple tastes. I came book mainly to give orcamp tonight. I don't want anybody speaking into the human town. No matter how innecently, no matter how inomspicuously! Nobody is to wander in as a little centimede. Nobady is to be a little bectle or a fly or a grease-spot or a

moth's een. The human city is off-limits! Understand? "Yes, Majesty?" said Abdel, "And von will return-?"

"I sleep in Barkot," said Tony firmly. "There are some negotiations to be made. I'm outte safe. Ifm ... have you talked to Nasim about your marriage?"

"Yes, Majesty." Here Abdul wore the expression of a cat completely filled with recon and canaries. "We are online agreed. Er . . . Masesty, you are not offended that I wore a postume and form resembling yours for-ah-courtshin?" mt, it's all right. Why don't you out married tonight?" "To hear is to obey Majesty!" "You can use the palace I won't be

steeping in, for a honeymoon cottage." said Tony enthusiastically. "If you like, I'll bring the Queen and her court out

"Your Majesty is too good!" protested Abdul costatically "Then it's settled-" and Tony paused

to say apprehensively. "You'll see that Nasim wears clothes while she's in human form?" "Yes, Majesty," Abdol beamed, "Way

I ask about your Majesty's plans for this evening?" "There's a banquet," said Tony. frowning, "and your wedding, And-

ried and my plans are none of your business."

"It is unthinkable," Abdul assured him "that your Majesty's desires should be opposed by any creature under the sky! But in such an impossible event-

"Music..." and Tony sigmly, "And in that case my plans are even less of your business! But remember, Barkus

Abdul bowed to the ground. TONY went back into the city. It was I were nicesant to have all the people smile at him joyously.. It was not too him, at once respectfully and with the becime King of the Disuxe. It wasn't had having large, lustrous eyes look warmly at him over traditional Moslem

to find Exir and Exim waiting for him

kissed him acundly "Indeed, Lord-Your Malesty," said Estr, laughing, "you cannot protest, because by custom any slave may kiss her master when he nerforms a feat so that she gives thanks to Allah that she belongs to him and no other! King of the Dilinus no loss! Tell me are the diseases beautiful?"

"Do you think you will prefer them to us?" asked Esim anxiously. "Indeed, Lord-Your Majesty, we heard the news but on hour since and we are fearful that you will not wish to keep

mat\* Tony looked at them with a gloomy satisfaction. "Things could be worse," he said

"For a little while I cannot tell you my plans, but whatever they been out to he. I will bear you in mind. Oh, definitely I will bear you in mind! Nil desperendies will be my motte." A tentative knock came at the door,

They untarrolled themselves reinstantly from his embrace. It was a male slave. "Materty, the Queen of Barkut bear your attendance in the throne room." "Coming up." said Tony with a sigh, To the two girls he said in comforting detection. "I'm afraud I'll be right back."

He followed the slave to the great throne-room he had seen once before with the decreast Council of Regency in session. The black morble floor was the came, and the braze podiacal signs sunk into it. It occurred to Tony that life would be wearing in a house of which

all interior and exterior features were subject to change without notice. There would be other disadvantages, too. The great throne was occupied, now, in the feat of another human who has . The Queen sat on it. Soldiers in baggy trousers, 'wearing shippers and carrying fintlock guns, regarded Tony with

with no less approval. The Queen sat

the affection of men who have expected women's wells. And there was a malto fight a losing battle oppings the differs. encholy satisfaction in going back to and now find that they can stay comhis old exarters in the palace-through fortably at home with their families. he had occupied them only one night-The courtiers of Barkut regarded him . composed and non-commettal on her "Majesty," said the Open sedately,

as Tony came to a stop before her. "we wish to offer you the thanks of the bottomens of Barlout for our liberation. and for the liberation of the nation from the fear of the drivers. We wish to express our admiration and our affection. We wish to ask if there is any-

thing which it is in our power to do, which will add to your satisfaction or happiness."

Tory looked unesaily around. He did "I'teld you today, in the litter," be said awkwardly, "that if by any means I could accure the freedom of the slavegirl Ghoil that I would wish to do that.

THE Queen nodded toward a side door . It opened. Two male slaves escorted Ghail to the dark before the throne. She was very pale. The Queen addressed her cently: "His Majesty the King of the Drinns

has asked your freedom as the price of his aid to us. He desires also to marry TOOL" Ghail's lips moved a little, but she did

not look at Tony. "Majesty," said the Queen, to him. "we can refuse you nothing. I make the If she does not marry you, she becomes again a stave. You would not impose

that condition, but we can do no less?" "But dammit-" began Tony indignontly -"I-I can have no choich," said Ghall almost insudibly, "I-I will marry him." But she looked totterly resigned, Tory hent over to her. She turned her fare

away, . He whispered urgently : "Dwmn it! Go through with it! Pil divorce you before we leave this half, As I understand it, all that's necessary is for me to say 'I divorce you' three

was laughing delightedly! "Now, then! Majesty, the passie of Barkut have been told only since my return that I am not their real mires When I was kidnapped by the King of the Ditant he believed me the open and Ghail yonder was but a child. I am actually Ghail's aunt, and it seemed I be strangled and Ghail berself kid-If you will make her no longer a slave-" demands. A child might have, been

by. "The code is here. He will marry you now. At once. Immediately!"

forward. The ceremony began. Chall

was very quiet, but her voice was firm.

The formula was strange to Teny, and

he did not know when it was finished-

But suddenly it was-and the Queen

A yeserable figure pushed his way

frightened into obedience. I-was other-"And so, while I posed as a captive Queen Chair remained among his neo. nic in disguise, learning the duties of people as few rulers do. The Council of Regency took its commands from her.

And now that the King of the Diverse in also our friend and moreover a human being, it is right and fitting and proper that she return to her throne. And the kingdom of the drives and the human kingdom of Barkut is now one nation, and there is now no reason for battle or anything but peace and joy."

Cannon began to beom outside. There was uprear. The audiente-hall itself . filled with moise. And iss Torry stood utterly stepefied, the erstwhile Queen stood up and beckened to Ghall. And Ghail held Tony's hand fast and pulled him after her as she mounted to her throne. She pulled him firmly down beside her on it. It was a close fit, though cabin, and it felt very pleasant.

The noise still continued. Presently Tony, still dased, whaspered into Ghail's

She terked her head about to look at "But-won didn't have to do it this him, her eyes wide. Then she frushed

way! If you were willing to marry me. But I'm using this to keep away drings," why didn't you just tell me so?" Ghail smiled composedly down at the

cheering people in the threne-room. She sand flowerly, tinder her breath: "We'd have been engaged, and it might have been weeks before we out married! And do you think I'd trust you another night in any dilan palace with all those hussies trying to gain your favors since you're their sing? Or do

you think I'd trust you with Esir and Baim either!" "Oh-h-h . . . " And then he said, "I-- I'll have to send them word I won't be

T WAS late. The royal brids party had eraciously attended the diess wed-

turned Cornen at il hoomed. There were boudies in the streets, and danging, eible fashions, including the indecorous But in the reval palace of Barkut the last chamberlain bowed out, the last closed the door family. He said:

slave-in-waiting departed, and Tony "Er-Ghail, did I remember to send word to Esir and Esim that I wouldn't be home tonight?" "Whether you did or not," Ghail teld

"I bith I" feeld He took out his ciwarette-case. He snapped it open. He began to provi about the bridsl chamber, blowing on the wick. A faint but perceptible aroms of last became noticeable. Ghall watched

him,, uncomprehending and embar-"Why do you do that, Tony?" she asked. "Oh, it's a sort of custom in my ecunuse lost of course. We use something else. It keeps away flies and mosquitos. Ghad smiled, and waited.

It was again night. Tony Green son cost of a tayleah on Lewer Fast Broadwar, in the Syrian quarter of New York, and raid off the driver. He beload a very pretty girl to the sidewalk and led her into a shiekly-hab restaurant. The

as he came to take his order. "I remember you?" he said "Mr. Emurium wanted to buy that gold-piece you had! He offered you two thousan' bucks. Aln't that right?" Then he cheered up as the celebration "Yeat's right," said Tony, "Have you

> "Oh, sure?" said the proprietor, "He comes in most every night . . . hey! Here he comes now!"

The sirl with Tony had listened fragrains in attention to the difficult ding of Nasim and Abdul in the police. Eaglish words. She looked up sharply outside the city walls. They had reas the hald-headed man with the impeccably tailored clothes entered. He anoke pleasantly to the proprietor glunced at Tony, and then came quickly

> "Good-evering?" he sold warmly twinkling through his eyectasars. have boned to find you again! I cabled my friend in Ispahan, and he is willing

to his table.

to pay you three thousand dollars for Youv reached in his pocket. He put down two gold-poeces.

"Here are two of them," he said, "Send them to your friend as eifts. I had rather hoped to see you again, too," He alipped into the Arabic he had learned from Chail. "This is my wife," To Ghatl he explained. "This is Mr. Empriso. You have been me sneak of "Oh, yes?" sand Ghaff. She smiled

sweetly. "Tony is so grateful to you. And I also." try," said Tony awkwardly, "We-don't "Yes," said Tony. "I went to Barket, you see. Met my wife there. In a sense. all due to you. And she wanted to see

STABILING STORIES my world, so we came back here, -Fve take the agency. Could I interest you?"

a rather interciting business proposition for vog. I'd like to have your friend make some contact with us in Barkut. and establish a branch of his bosiness there. It would be useful to have a resular commercial contact with this world

and with the United States," The half-headed Mr. Emprian set

"You my that you went to Barkut?" "Oh. wes." said Tony briskly ."Hm . . .

He gave the spectacled man a brief, heaty, and necessarily improbable account of what had happened to him since their last meeting in this same res-

"The differs" he concluded Phone . some had qualities, but their main trouble was that they could be anything they wanted, so they pever learned how to make anything. I came back to put

designs and pictures of all sorts of stuff. Not only statues and fashions and archidustrial products, and-" he paused-"the machines that make them. After all, a dibus' can turn himself into a drillpress as well as a beetle or a whirlwind. once he knows what a drill-wrose is like As a drill-press be can turn out all sorts of stuff-including another drill-press-And that manner of working would be converial to them, too. They'll like be-

invoces of machinery and turning out things the humans can't make and are delighted to buy from them. Rapkut count to become a vather thriving industrial community before long." Mr. Emurian simply stored, battler

"I'd like to have your friend set up a branch of his business in Barket," asid Tony expuestly, "And-well-I'd like a group deal to get an accest here in the United States, forwarding samples of . new products, technical magazines, and above all pictures of everything under the sun. You could get them to larghan route your friend discovers-if you'd

"Yes. Indeed you interest me. Oh. indeed yes!" "You work out the details," said Tony, "I'm staving at the Waldorf with my wife. I brought back quite a sum in ould, and can arrange for you to stress on it. You make your plans and get your

me when he finds a way to Barkut. -Til have him watched for there, and he can locate me sasily enough?" "Indeed be can" said Ghail proudly. "My husband in His 'Most Illustrious Majesty, the Great in Single Combat

Mr. Errorian sold:

the Destroyer of Evil, the Protector of passionate, the King of Djinns and Men, "Yes," said Tony abstractedly, "he can find me."

. Mr. Errorise turned over the two rolden come Tony had put on the table. And stabletely his fingers trembled a little. On one side was an inscription in that the coin was a ten-dirhim piece of Barlout. The other side showed a rather elaborate throne. But it was not ownty. It was occupied by two people. Onethe eld\_was in some native dress of considerable searchers, and Mr. Prostrian

looked turion at her. The dark-eved, wouldbe arolling old house Tony in the shouldered restaurant had plainly been the model for that floure. But he knowed three times, and four, and five, at the male figure on the cain. That half of the design was a young man in a soft hat and a belted-in-the-back topered. shoes. It was, in fact, Tony Gregg, "Law he most hanny to be your American agent," said Mr. Emerica, a

Er-Your Malesty!" IT WAS later. Much later. Tony was in his pajamas in their botel suits. "It's funny," said Tony thoughtfully, as Ghall looked out a window at the lighted ways and skyscrapers of New York. "It's funny that my conscience doesn't seem to bether me say more. You remember I teld you about it?"

He was suppling a final highted. Ghaif stared almost afrighted at the incredible passorams before her—e city ten rules long, with millions of highted by the incredible passorams nearon growth. You will be seen to be supplied to the consideration of the passoram to be a supplied to the passoram to the passoram to be a supplied to the passoram to the passoram

"overhead to the sound of meters.
"I know, Tony," said Ghail, not turning around.
"Maybe it's dead," said Tony humor-

cusly. "It must to bother me a lot."
Then his reassitions spale. Startling.
If and amongly that is was very well
ly. It said amongly that is was very well
astitisfied with Tony, and that he could
be some that his contentment uses the
result of its appreval. He was very
normally married, he was so far reasorsally faithful to his wifet—though he had
turned around twice, today, to lech at
whys-stockinged lears—and he had be-

Tony demed it indignantly. But he wast said his constitute complacently. He was the executive head of the joint kingdom of diverse and men of Barkstt, and he was arranging for the gradual introduction of an American standard of

civilization. Eventually there would be electric retrigeneous, mylon stockings, fertilizer, resis, and tabble gum in Barket. It would be the result of Tony's executive action, And he was roung. So he was a young executive. So his constitute was gleased with him, and he should feel the greatest happiness positionally and the second properties of the consideration o

"Ghall tursed from the window.

"Teny," she said, just a little bit unhappy, "I'm homeslek! This world of years' is so kir." So tremendous! There are so many sourie! I will stay here if

"I think," said Tony, "we can start back day after temorrow. All right?" She smiled at him, warmly. He pet down his glass and stood up. 'He put his arms around her. "But there's one thing," he classred

world for! Ten million people all around you may be disunting, but there's one thing we've got here that we can nover be sure of in Barbest! Here, my dear, w've got privacy!"

He reached up and turned off the light.

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## THE GREAT IDEA

and I are idealistic-remantic

Lou Hamlin Was the Ideal Sucker with that



## By RAYMOND Z. GALLUN

place. Sometimes the pressure of survival becomes very great. Putting a surfect wise can be a kindness. But there is temptation to seek wicked personal benefit.

We'd been cadging handouts in Lima City for quite a while—the sections runtine on any frontier after another writing guess. It's bad for a man's uride and

books a day just for the manufactured air you breathe under the municipal atmosphere dome.

We were in the Dead Rocket Bar again, beking over the mole for prospects. And Jody was still reminding me,

again, tecking over the mob for prospects. And Jody was still reminding me, "Qotta get us a deal awful soon, Shorty, or they'll make dishwashers of us to pay our debte."

I was having the recurrent vision of an old langer resembled; at a low noith.

Plan for Making Earth-Moon Freighting Safe!

Home-the hills and woods of Missouri.

Funny-when I feel like that I've never got the thousand bucks that the abort how of a morter-million stiles costs. Considering the price of atomic fuel and the risks maybe spare travel will always be expensive.

The Spacesbininen's Union forbide worksway, passage so stealing bread from the mostly of its members. And often that every con on the blasting-off - "We out its a deal, Jody." I said wistfolly, "Owners, and, water plant 'mobile type, to make money off of the optimists

going out to the new Holridge program striks. We'd be able to sell oxygen-andwater to claim-atakers right and left." What passes for a face with Jody showed me hir dispurt, "Oh, sure, Shorty " he rembled "Grand idea ... with a sure young fortune buried in it. Excent that where weallt you 'o' me find a backer-leven offering a sixty-percent-

profits out to him-upo would provide the ten thousand bucks necessary to buy "Not to mention the plant fixelf and all the tanks and cylinders needed to held the recovered air and water. Pal.

little of that kind of dench I'd be back in "There's plante deach in Lone City." I orem hied, "It's the local gossins that are our trouble. Talking about us and

the tantalum ore deal. Sure we made errors in judgment. But you know how gossip is-exaggerating and misrepresention triffes until we not a bad retutation and nebedy to give us a hond." I stopped griping very suddenly "Shorty-do you see what I see?"

Jedy whispered like a happy gremmawith a guilty conscience.

"I ain't blind," I answered, XTE were a little like a pair of post VV Moon-born colonial kilds just then -staring, mouths advoct, at a big bowlfull of surgeons, shipy apples straight

A guy had just come into the Doad Booket. Young-a awart how the old ladies might say. His Longr dungarees were so new that he might well have frethman on hour before. There was self-constitueness and wonder in his face-the wander of a greenborn youngster's first trip off the Earth.

Hader one arm he had the fame City Arms. Part of the headline was hidden METALS FREIGHTER EXPLODES IN SPACE BLAME COST,CUT AT-TEMPT. Yeah, a monotonius old story. The kid lacked the sourdough's mask

of casus less complitely. What his trueulent defensive manner tried to say was ....Krow off we objectoral for respect! I'm notodu's foot! What it really said to us and every-

body else in the Dead Rocket was-Here's downk in a below's necket. All he knows is that some disquating charactern sound ft. And manbe he can shootdefeat some felks. But not intelligent-OTHER.

A much of this charming calibra would never be off the Rarth unless be had at least several throughed preenharker of security-money on him?" Jody said. "New why do you waste expensive wind saying the obvious, Jody?" I asked. "Or have you got exil thoughts?"

"Shucks, no. Shorty," my pal denied with error carnestness. "Fact to I feel only paternal protectiveness toward little Greenie. Because you and me must

have looked something like him when we first came to the Moon. Have you got wicked designs on his reli?" "Sure-not?" 1 retorted. "My intentions are as pure as yours. I want only

on him from all parts of this dive. Jody. while we work together it might be best if we don't seem to know each other sorry well. Go hide of the washroom " Jody obeyed without argument - prov-

THE GREAT IDEA ing that, in spite of past errors, he still pipe? The description might even almost

respected my wisdom. his turn at the bur behind those who wanted drinks, had his chance to ask Ross Minton whichever of the many things that greenborns are always want

ing to know was troubling him · Roga's twenty, dark, tiny-the profit sixt girl on the Moon. And strought and sweet with the right individuals. can't always say the same for her more works around the point and nometimes. sings for the crowd She puts Jady and

me quite a ways above some people I sat concentrating my easer stare on know that I wanted to be helpful. Pres-Under envious glares of arose and ap-

proached Sonny Boy. "Shorty." Ross said. "This centiemer says he must find an Irvin Klocky. At old timer like you. Ever hear of him?" Very dimly in the plack of my memory I saw another hir her-one who who had awarmed over the Moon to make their fortunes. Drilled through

the guts by a fast moteor out on the Longy plains on Pd broad. Maybe three years ago. Drilled and smothered in a nunctured soaccessit, "K-l-o-o-k-y," I spelled. "Yeah, I know him." The greenborn looked me over. His face was sullen with recrettable worry. suspicion and distaste, all directed at me. Yeah, you have to use subterfuse to get some ninnies to accept your protec-

tion from the covetous, "Maybe six feet tall, Klosky is," I said. "No dude. Seldon shaves. Chews tobecco, Lantern paw. Nose like a bulb. Muscelar."

These points were safe to mention. They fitted my dies recollection of Irv Klosky, But Moon-burns conform rather well to a nattern. For azatance, what can you do but chew tobacco in a spacesuit when you can't afford to burn up your practices occurs with cigarettes or a

have fitted my own superior physique. " Now the tenderfeet having waited a physicamora, and habits And as fee outlining my nal. Jody Nichols, it was perfect. Sonny Boy fell in line-became eager, "That's Klosky all right!" he exclaimed. "My mother informed me what he was like !"

Umbm-m-like that the kid let me know that he had never seen Klosky, in the flesh or by photograph. "He a relative of years?" I saked

casually, just to start the information rolling my way. "Dustant cousin," Greente said, sounding glad to snill what was bottled uptraine him to englady who know some body he had heard about, "Mother was always yorgistne him as the great ad-

venturer of her family though she hasn't only man on the Moon that I know about with the greatest idea of all time!" "Cosh !" Leasuremented somewhat skeptically. But it was the right encourage-"That's right, Mister," he said softly, "The idea that will make transportation between Moon and the Earth safe, zure and fuelless! Incrneasing and self-norpermating! The idea that will get all the.

countless tone of Moon-reined metal across to Earth, not by recket nowerbut by its own simple notential energy..... like a stone rolling down hill! The idea rible space-freighter disasters!" FTER Greense had said this much. A he looked around him with worry and savagery as if, in his enthusiasm-

ah, yes, in the vanity of young geniushe had said more than he should. From way in the back of my mind

something dovetailed with what he had just told use about this invention of his. And though I know that, in common with other young and overconfident peo84 STARVLING STORIES .
bimosh and eternal historic fame, still kind to argue with the obvious.

—hencet to gosh—I felt fatherly toward bim, as if he was a page toen from my own past. "Um," I grunted. "Pal—if you can do all that you ture will be, the toast of

which you care with the control of the course of the cours

rant out corny repy. on mino-tocerybedy who asks who I am when H's safe to be trethful—didn't even make him smile. "I'm Lon Hamlin," he stated with sour and cocky impatience. "And can you find me Trvin Klesky?"
"Maybe within the hear. Hr. Ham-

"Maybe within the hour, Mr. Hamlin," I replied, "If Irv's in Luna City. Just lemme retire to yonder phone houth,"

Of course I didn't call Kleaky, who is

dend, but a little wizened gay I should be ashamed to Enow. His quiet specialty is documents—forged. -I came back to Greenie, grinning. "All okey, Mr. Hamila," I said, "We've fast

getts wait around a little for Irv. Hey, Ross! Give this gentleman a druk. Be rught back, mister," I added under my bresth and went into the washroom. It took just a minute to explain things to Jody. Het favored me with an evil

on John for Lawredt me with all cenmils. "My friend," he taid, "It is not zion to yield to temptation."
"Yea, Jody, I am tempted—scene," I replied, "Because of our present circumstances and because this fair youth some superior. Still I am, yielding only to the extent of honors for a titled back to

so superior. Still I am, yielding only to the extent of hoping for a ticket back to Earth. A fair exchange for service readered. To sheeld such a one as Nr. Hamlin from the results of the narved of his genius it is necessary to ge fix out of our way to fool him. So get going fast."

I bossized Jody out the washroom window. He was soon back, equipped with an identity card which declared him to be Irvin Klosky. His photograph was attached. And the whole thing was rubbed and crimited to look old and used. Well, this Len Hamilin was not the "Mother's long-lost second couris—I'm very gind to meet you, Mr. Klosky," be said, shaking Jody's big gaw. "And now, if we can hire a private room where we can tilk. . . . You too, Shorty, being Mr. Klosky's friend."

J. was afraid Jody might get stuck if the conversation turned to farmly hard.

the conversation turned to family hattory. But I model's have worried. Little Lounie was altogether too anxious to speak of his Great Idea to bother with idle reminiscences. In the back room Roes ind us so we all sat down around a table—with drinks, of course. Lon Hamin started to talk at once. "Becusse of the difference in their "Becusse of the difference in their

respective gravities, boys," he said patroshingly, "anything that weights one pound on the Moon weights six pounds on Earth. Right?"
"Sure," I agreed.
Lennie, boaled nleaved with himself.

Lennie looked pleased with himself. "Okay," he continued. That difference of the pounds, between one pound of weight on the Moon to its weight of this pounds on Terra-origonous transpadeus potential energy! Energy that works in the direction of Barth!
"Far more than enough energy to

carry saything on the Moon-mored metal, people, plain lava rock, anything at all—across space to Earth by recause of the peoper fitherent in (field)/ Right again?" Well for my part, in spite of some tineffs to the contrary in what Lon

Hamilin had said to me before, I still had sort of suspected that his idea, like a lot of those of the garden variety that attack a great problem, might be strictly in the screedul class. But no, more and more this Great Insurration of Greenie's began to look as-

through if was founded on very sound physical principle. Jody started to show a rail waved and yeary interacted expression. What difference does it make that the wasn't for quite the reasons you might think! I'lly eyes wedered.

"You're abscultely correct, Mr. Harnis." he green wasn't form the principle of the property of the proper

THE GREAT IDEA

Greenie's face altone with triumph "Then it is only necessary to find a way to berness this simple rower." he intened. "Obviously, an object can't rest fall off the Moon to Earth, Secause, for a small fraction of the distance between the two bodies, the Lunar gravity, though fundamentally so much less than

that of the terrestrial, is dominant. "Let us nicture the situation by meson of an elementary analogy-a boulder at the bottom of a small depression on too of a hill. By virtue of its superior elevation, that boulder possesses the potential energy to roll to the bettern of the hill with great force. It is only

necessary to vall it opposed a few feet first to clear the lip of the depression. "This might be done by attaching it to another boulder by means of a cable -another boolder already rolling down the ME? A little of the latter houlder's kinetic energy would thus be employed to draw the former out of the depression at the hilltop and get it started down-

ward under the force of gravity! "Then a third boulder, also in the depression at the start, might be attached to the accond-with the same of siphon-principle as long as there were houlders left in the hollow at the hill's

Judy's eyes had been fairly to cittee with excitement and I guess the same was true of mine, "Continue, Mr. Hamlin." I said. "How does all this fit the Mton-to-Earth transportation problem

new?" CONNY BOY'S vecce quivered with S pride and engerness as he went on. "Don't you see?" he said, "The relatively few thousand wiles of the total Moonto-Earth distance, where the lesser Lunar evasity is deminant, represent the part of the boulders' path where

the little way to the lin of the hillton "The much greater distance wherein the far stronger terrestrial gravity

rules, represents the hill-side itself, where the boulders, toined together by lengths of cable, are free to red downward, realiting their notential energy of congress elevation in the form of metion, power and distance covered, . ." Again Lonnie Hami'in paused as if to get his breath. He took a long swisfrom the class at his elbow. Judy and

I looked at each other Tell us the rest, Hamlin," I urred. "Viscoline it like this," he said "A small rocket is fired Earthward from the meon, drainging a long cable, A-while after it passes beyond the field of dominstee of Luner gravity and begins to

small freight-corrying glider-is attached to the cable at the point where it is still being paid out from the moon. "As in the case of the boulders. rolling down the hill this elider is collect susuant from the Moon's surface by the weight of the rocket, now in the grin of the stropeer terrostrial gravits

and falling toward the Earth, "When in turn the elider has passed firmly into the field of dominance of Terra's attraction a second freightelider is broked to the cuble unwinding from the Moon. Its leap toward the Earth is newered by the energy of Earthward fall of both the recket and

the first slider "So the process goes on in a chain, more eliders, classmed to the cable, being drawn from the Moon by those already falling toward Earth! The pull on the cable becomes steadily stronger as more

and more eliders pass into the sone where terrestrial gravity rules. "In this toy of war with its satellite Terra has two vast advantages-a sixto-one more powerful attraction and, just-as important, a far longer grip! Of all the eliders strung out at intervals from Mosn to Earth terrestrial gravity energy must be expended to lift them would be dominating all but the first

few! So its pell on the cable would increase until the lead-rocket reached Torva. Then it would remain approximately steady.

STARTLING STORIES process as consisting of just a single held out straight by Terra's attraction! line of gilders on a cable. There are "And here's where the hir additional other wrinkles termy bles!" "Jees!" Jody marveled. There was the cable-laying lead-rocket approaches sweat on his forehead Earth, let it brake speed. Then, a few

· "But you don't have to nocture the

elide to a landing with their wines.

My thoughts were whirling. Some of score miles short of contact, let it make them were rother sheepish. I looked at a hairtin turn and trace a novollel noth Lonnie Hamlin, the young wizard, whose back to the Lunar station and the hig even were reating about tensely for a pulley on the Moon, drawing the public means to make his explanations clear around the curve and on its new course after it! Like this. . . ." to us boneheads. I took a hir swallow of Honor from my class Then I took a scrap of paper and a pencil from

TAMLIN sketched in the line. He Hamila assumed in triumphantly. "When my pocket, "Here," I said to Sonny, "Drawin' a diagram might help." the rocket cets back to the Moon let a He made a circle to represent the simple splice be made around the pulley-Earth. And a lonser circle at a little wheel-between the lunar end of the

distance, to stand for the Moon. cable and the end brought back by the recket. Taus. . . . " The pencil moved "Lung keeps the same face toward swiftly "And what do me have then vibrating with excitement, "Okay-then boys? You tell me." "An endless conveyor-cable!" Jody we could have a fixed send-off station for freight and passengers at about the burst out.

center of the Moon's Earthward berni-"Perfectly correct, Mr. Rlosky," sphere. Let this big pulley that I mount Sonny Boy said as if he were patting here represent it." Jody on the back, "But I haven't shown - From one side of the nulley he draw you all of the possibilities of my idea

a line. "This is the cable going Eartheven yet! Consider the expess power ward from the Moon," he said. "Al generated on the loaded, Earthbound elong its length I not those drirts...the side of the cable. loaded freight-gliders. This cross-line "Some of it can be salvared! It is close to the Moon, indicates the bound, obvious that he waight and volume ary between space dominated by Lunar most Earth-Moon traffic is Earthbound.

gravity and that ruled by Terrestrial gravity. I just told you all of this. mines. Only machinery, food, minor "But what happens when the rocketfreight and nassengers on out to the borne cable's end and the eliders reach Moon. These supplies and people can have a fuelless ride in-a few loaded the outer fringe of Earth's atmosphere?" he went on, "Az for the cliders. gliders among the lightweight empty they just unbook from the cable and ones, being returned to the Moon on the

But does the cable have to trail down to back to the Lunar station to the weight Earth's surface? "Obviously, since the Rooth vitates opposite direction?" quite rapidly on its axes, and doesn't Lon Hamlin finished at last the outkeen the same side always turned to ward the Moon, there oruldn't he a triumphant. "Well, fellas-what do you

fixed freight and passenger station on think of my idea?" he demanded. the Terrestnal surface, as on Luna, No. the cable needn't touch Earth's crust at experience too. "It's, wonderful, Mr. Harolin," I replied feeling honest.

part of the cable that is being drawn

phere, dansling from the Moon and

Jody's face was almost sad. "Funny, ain't it?" he commented "Most trais great ideas are simple. For years they

THE GREAT IDEA

wines on planes, before they figured out the much simpler and faster let. And this thing of Mr. Hamlin's-it's as uncomplicated as an old-fashioned dumbwaiter! But it seen oughtto work "Wby, the evenly distributed wright

and tension all along that cable line ought to tend to equalize speeds tooso that none of those eliders would ever go too fast or too slow for safety! deceleration as in rocket ships. Farmy too that nobody ever put this idea across before-though people so often think

take a stroke of genius. "And think of all the poor guys who died in the wrecks of dangerous spaceshins-and of all the money that was wasted building and operation them. cheaper better idea, just waiting for

semebody to think of it! That don't seem fair." Jady sounded Insubrious. He looked at me, I looked at him. Certain mental flashes of understanding passed between us. We'd been sidekicks for a long time. And we were both all of thirty-two. We looked at Lonnie Hamlin and we both naw a different kind of your from our-

selves-cocky, very young, full of drive Maybe a little too spooty, green in some ways, probably jealous of the magnificent owers of his idea-we " couldn't have reached any equal understanding with him. But the way things stacked up we sort of had to so alone with him and his invention. We had to keep him under our-protection more than ever, now, Yeah-because we liked

him Einelly Jody asked Hamlin "Yes want our help, bunh?" "If you can help was," he realised "Then that's settled," Jody told bim. "Have you done any experimenting yet on your scheroo?"

"That's what I'm on the Moon to omplish," Hamlin anapped back. "And it'll take mensy-quite a let of it." Jody reminded him "Fauinment is expensive." For a second Soney Boy looked wary again. But Jody's statement had been

reasonable, "On Forth I formed a compeny and sold stock," Hamlin said proudly, "Quietly-se that no his comnear would try to some me on my scheme. To little people-to interested. friends-and of course to members of my family. I've a letter of credit for fifty-thousand dellars. More in each."

ten! What a new be, would have been, selling stock for a "phony project and on the same track. But I room it does then scramming! But this mapey was for his Great Idea. He was utterly sincere and earnest about it. The money was little people's money-and his family's. His mom's-maybe his grand;

Such thoughts turned the avil cupidity in me to a sour ache of suilt. Still, fifty-thousand bucks! But I informed myself that Ed keep my fingers as clean as I could, even if it gave me a

pervous breelofown. "All I'm interested in now are smallscale tests," Sonny Boy was saying. "We'll need a lot of strong, fine-gauge wire to take the place of the cable in a full-scale conveyer setup. I brought a little atomic rocket along with me from

Jody and I exchanged slow knowing oring of communication again. Yesh. it's a shame how sometimes you have to use subterfuses to do the right thing by certain people. "I know where we can got a huge amount of the wire we need, for nothing, practically," I said "That's right, Mr. Hamlin," Jody affrmed. "Leave the problem of aupuly and equipment in Shorts's hands."

"Of course we'll need a Lonar traveller-tractor-and a few other things," I

Sonny Boy heaved a great sigh of re-

hef as if, with Jody and me around, all his triubles were over. Maybe the liques had helped but all his suspicion and distante for me seemed to have vanished. "Great follow, you all timers, with the dust of the airless Moon srimed into

STABILING STORIES

"Great fellan, 'you old timers, with the dust of the airless Moon grimed into your hides!" be said, romanticising us. "One might be led to doubt you but you're sure not helpful human quali-

A PTER all Sonny Boy was a great
A PTER all Sonny Boy was a great
tiel. Jody and I felt pretty good
oursiève. Arbeing other things the hills
and woods of Missouri seemed practicells within reach We called for Ross

to bring more divinion. By the way Lunnie Hamlin's face shore you could alwort imagine him wearing a wreath of glory. You could almost hear the blare of trumpets and the clash of cymbuls. And I could understand.

symbols. And Legold understand.
Outside of the illuminated airdome
of Luna City it was still Lunar night—
about two Earth-days left out of a total
of fouriese. It was best not to start
out on our venture till dawn—but those
forty-eight bours gave as the time

seeded for preparations.

I get Senny Boy a fairly good secondhand traveler-tractor at a very reasonable price. I had to get rid of him for a while to do it, so that local folles, always quick to smot an eavy mark.

a write to do it, so that seem foots, always quick to spot an easy mark, wouldn't think it was for him. All he had to do was supply the money. What he actually did was give me a liftenthousand-ollar carts blanche to buy quipment. And that made everything quite to my liking.

equipment. And that made everything quite to my lithing.

Jody—the spurious Frin Kloudy west along with me when I bought as second-hand mobile-type coygen-adowter plast and the sperage cylinders water plast and the sperage cylinders water plast and the sperage cylinders guirchase we sligged part a little from the past of honorsty—and this lothered me, some. Also we ddn't buy gusch when the plast of honorsty—and the source of all we could get a real barrain in write at a certain place distain of Lana City.

Advyuse I eth the hat we did regist. well, maybe ob-timers get in a rut. Maybe they're nearow and limited and lake the splendid daying of except and execution that is characteristic of youth. They just plot, even in their gambling. And that case he a mistake, ... Losnie Hamlin, we found, was spreading me to the splendid of the splendid o

talking to Ross Minton or just starting at her. She was operetly and the way he lebeled at her made a pretty picture. It gave us a warm feeling around our hearts. Though naturally we worried some that, for instance, she might tell him that Jody waard Ire Klosky. But theugh some lumar eclonishs have their faults they have a code? They never squeal on one of their number.

It was strange when once Rosa connered me and said, her cynical little smile going soft around the edges. "Shorty—he's dumb and he's infliant and he's self-centered. Maybe he needs knocking down some to make a man of him. But he's carnest and good. Take at easy with him, will you?"

There was something pleading and sweet in the way she leoked at me. It bothered my conscience some even when I replied, "Sure, Roea honey—naturally. You know me—Jake Short." In the first blaze of dawn Jody and

Hamilin and I rode out of an alricole of Lenn City in the sealed, air-conditioned cab of the traveler-francier. Out across the ancient laws plains boward the conter of the Earthward hemisphere of the Moon. Around us everywhere, was that demantable bleak desth-filled and considerably Seafmating Lenar brideane, with its mountain representa-

creater walls bying low against the starspecies day of space.

By his expression Lonnië Hamilia was clearly on the road to high adventures and eternal fame. He was even singing low-scopp under his breath. His small atomic recket was fastaned to the top of our oxygen-and-water plant do the covered trailer behind the treator. He only affaced to see what was in the THE GREAT IDEA

full of wire because I'd left our one roll exposed.

We weren't exactly alone in our exons from Lama City. Lots of other traveler-traction and plenty of guys on foot and in space-unit, many with mountainous parks on their backs, were traveling the same trail. They were the

optimists, the real chance-takers—going out to the Hoffrige urassum strike to dig, to stake their claims. Deer's pet me wreeg. There's mony in that kind of business if your lacky. Jody and I had made plenty of it in cur time. It just happened, though, that

heaty will become more increased in the sure business deliar carried from a sale of vital commodities to the hepeful. This way skey take all the charge. The place we were headed for was in the same direction as the Heinighe strike, Only it was twenty mike farther a total of about three hundred from

Lens City. But just about the former distance from our geal our traterbrokes down. That's the trouble with secondhand equipment—it's not dependable. While Jedy proceeded languildy to impact the damage to car valided wandered afield to hant for what I knew, inn't generally too hard to find. Techmically the Moon is waterless and air-

bess. But minerals, excepts, and water ease assumbly plentiful.

For instance there's ordinary alum.

Put it on a bot atove and it studies as the water in the crystaltrasticn boils away. And if all cles is absent in a particular regime there's still bound to be a certain amount of low-valence.

ferrous cande in laws reck—enough to provide a source of acygon at least. Ferrie oxide—rust—which contains wore expens, is practically necessistent on the Moon. But in an oxygenand-water plant adjusted for that kindof job the ferrous easile serves quite well. Such ribants are attem-powered

weil. Such plants are atom-powered and when necessary can split any compound into its component elements. What I did find was a lode of gyptim rock, which was almost ideal for our

purposes. If sectains water, which is reisoned, by simple heating, as steam. This, of course, can be condensed and celledof just by cooling. And water as a fine source of oxygen too—being more than half oxygen by weight. Without much trouble we were able to move our hare traveler-tranter and

the plant to the lode Right away, of coirsa, Soany Boy got a little werried and annoyed and seared, "Say—what's going on here?" he demanded.

I was very patient with him. "Look, Hr. Hamikn, "I said gently," whe can't go far the way our tractor is. You can see that for yourself. But why hurry or worry? We've got lots of time.

"As it heaven, John-Liman, Mr. "As it heaven, John-Liman, Mr.

Knoky, whose flickmens in Jedys—and I. have come prepared to set up a basiness which we are very familiar with. It's nice and locardave and on the level and you're in on it as our basics. So just take teasy, will you, like a good fear 'I' well, it hard me to watch his face 'I'm Well, it hard me to watch his face transfer of grey instead of grey instead the transparent halmost off his spacessit—we were all west hope of the property of the control of the property of t

despair and dumb surprise. He looked as if he thought he was group to be sundered out here on the terrible Lunarplain at any moment.

"You stupid hardened Moon-tramp!" he yelled at me by believed redie. "I might have known by your ugly facen that you'd never be intelligent crough or farsighted encough—either of you—40. by

regular useful in potting across my Great Ideal I was a fooly Noboly can say ruly that, though I'm not perfect, Jake Short would deny any person the peivilege of blowing his top when he felds so inclined. So I just always

All of a sudden he reached for the bisefur that he'd been carrying at his waist. "Genel" he creaked. "The blaster's gone!" "Maybe you lost it, pal," I suggested

er's gone?"
"Maybe you lost it, pul," I suggested
mildly. "Anyway, what do you want it
for? You don't need it."

STARTLING STORIES density and presume right then and there. I had to wrestle In about twelve hours of business we with him and throw him down hard on had acquired a very impressive roll of the lava a few times to quiet him. oversharks, I looked at Jody and then At last he short of langed into a dazed we both looked at Sonny Roy who was

You test use nure exveen under lesser

hopelessness, which I was not harpy to sitting on the ground, sulking and desee. But I didn't care to expend more of fected, Jody pooled. So I not the whole my energy, trying to ehher him un by talking to him about the plooding up-His belinet radio still worked as far burried shillstonky of ten-year Longr

This quiet logic didn't soothe him any.

as the receiver went. "The earnings of colonials like Jody and me. a fifteen-thousand-dollar investment-in "Unbook his belmet radio so that he twelve hours," I said. "All yours, Mr. can't start hollering for help to passing Hamlin, We'll take a fair share later. elaim stellows and then let's get heav with what we gotte do." Joby growled. now why we stooped here first. That

That was what we did. We set up the money you brought to the Moon is your digger, which fed gypoum to our oxygenfamily's and your friends' and other peoand water plant, and started everything ple's. It's your responsibility. And they deserve some dividends." going, Soon we had commodities to sell -ord a straggling but steady line of I felt silly as I made that speech. I felt customers. Once Sonny tried to talk by

of battered saints-redeeming ourselves -signs to a customer, shaking the guy's shoulders and seawling to get attention. for all our old and recent wrong-doing There were fifteen hundred bucks in But John said "Don't mind the Idd friend. He has the usual trouble of some cash-and more to come

"We like your ides, Hamlin," Jody porary Lunar insanity, He'll be okay," said. "We've out reasons. After a certain length of time-maybe a few more Lognie Hamlin was passive after that Rarth-days we'll on to the site of the Out away from Luna City, in the real ,

wilderness, water sells for twenty or Sonny stared at the dough. He looked thirty bucks a liter: And it isn't a holdup shorosh and entity and analogetic. He price either, considering that a claimstoker has a chance\_although a sure stared at the dough as if it wasn't real. He liked it all right. But all of a sudden

alender our-of finding a fortune in rich he just threw it at us. are in a few Earth-days' time. "New how do you figure such manners?" I asked Jody at I gothered the -but for that kind of sambling fast outstuff un again. lay is the expected thing accepted cheer-

Jody shrusped. "You know. Shorty." fully. Oxygen by weight is twice as ex-Spre-Loppie Hamlin' wanted, his water and he can't carry too much of it dough to be earned by his brain child. Any other kind was fifthy locre to himwith him, even on the Moon with its low

beneath his dignity. Buildes, he was way out in the Morri-desert with a couple of Oxygen belinets have air purifiers but airtight tents at'll have to be inflated blokes who weren't like him and who when men want to eat and sleep. Nitrohed played tricks on him, injuring his ero. Resides. I obers he saus netting

of Earthly air-we might have been able homesick and was suffering from a touch of Moon madness. to scoply too from sealed hobble expities

· in certain kinds of Luner lava. But it We continued producing and selling occurren and water for several hours isn't becessary to sustain human life.

#### THE GREAT IDEA

more. Of course I realized that a greenhorn in Lomie Hamilin's condition, can be far more dangerous than a nillion anakes. The trouble with Jedy and ma, I guess, was that we din't take Sonry seriously enough as a possible enemy to

sariously enough as a possible enemy to be really careful.

He didn't receiver his own blaster from where I'd hidden it in a locker abourd the tractor. Instead be nebbed mise from behind. Then he had its wicked mustle covering us. He got the nexts I'd successfrom his heliust radie.

wicked mantle covering parts Pd removed from out of my chest-pouch

back into place.

"Fix the tractor, you skumks," he ordered softly. "You know that its breakdown is a take, arranged by yourselves." Yeah—right away we were down on our knew, obeymp him while he lee-

thred us. You two are phonoes from start to finish," he said, his vooch hard. "You, my worthy, Jody, are not my mother's cossin, Irvin Kinsky. No relatives of mins, even a remote one, could be as cheap and stupid and svill as you and your renegade friend. I will turn you both over to the authorities in Luna City.

If you remain sufficiently doubt.

"Otherwise I may have to kill you. But first we are going where we intended to go—those we are so near the pusce. Even though we have not enough wire for the experiment—even though you never had any intention of bringing wire or of

charm? Ary Klasky had died out here. It happened all the time.

But in spite of the scare in him and the jumpiness of his nerves and his not here jumpiness of his nerves and his noception. It is not the second of the Lounne Hamilin somehow. He had grate and determination. He was a raw fright and determination. He was a raw frightmed kiel, who was still macazaira to do-

people—runs in parallels. Proving this again, Jody's bead seemed to be to the same track as mine—jodging by what he began to say to Lounie Hamlin. "You really get yeareds a great idea, kid. The power is there, pretty much like one excluded. And the mechanical de-

you explained. And the mechanical design is good."

If didn't, say any more and neither did I just then, principally because Lon-

nie ausped, "Shut up, you crooked old windles;"

Our destination was in level ground with nothing to mark its position except

a small craker nearby. I remembered this latter's slight individual characteristics, I stopped the tractor. "Well, here we are, loss," I growled. "Shall we dismount?" We get out of the eab. For a while nobody talked and Jody and I looked around to refresh frod memeries as

Sonny stared avidly at what was been to see. First he looked almost exper. Then seenething like panic aboved in his face. The advance of the Lumar witherness seemed like some negative explosion. Finally I figured that it was safe to talk exer though Lumin at ill lare Ledv.

talk, even though Leonie alli kept doly
and me covered with his blaster.

"Your idea is so simple, Nr. Hamis,"
i I said, "Even allowing for certain firstitations of the busuas brain, don't you
think somehody must have thought of it
before you did? Especially physicists, always busy with that kind of thicking!

"Jourt a cable going around a pulley—
with one side of the cable beauty le landed

and cutweighing the other side. As simple as an old-time perpetual-motion machine. But a thing that ought to work...." STARTLING STOR

Near us wan a tentilke sirtight shelter, delated new. For nine years it had been deserted. Nearby were six signatic spools of fine-gauge wire—dest the kind that Soray had wanted for his tests. It looked beaust-new. The years on the sirless moon harby damaged it a hit. And it was discarded—free for the taking. Great harby of the sires wire

Great lengths of the same wire, snapped off, were bunched into angresure to the law reck. There were some small reddets, not much different from the newer one that Lon had brought out from Earth. And there were little dartchaped weights of metal, fitted with clamps, by which they could be attached at intervals to the wire.

That want't all. Los Hamilin was treated to the aid ergodalization of his mingrifleent idea in the presence of the small pulley-model-idea —sounted in a manifer frame that was set in a concrete block imbedied in the Moorn's cruit. Near it was a power-driven high-speed reel. Spaceboot tracks that lossed harmaned were averywhere in the faint dust on the laws. Ne with the aboved here ide on the laws. Ne with the aboved here ide

rub them out. "Who—did—all—this?" Hxmlin residud at Jody and me by belmet radio. "A whole hunch of guys, long ago," I answered. "Jody and I were in on it. Kwry coice incushile somebody thinks up this Great Idea to make Moon-to-Rath traffs chamber offer checore. If

has get to be an old joke—a trap for the unwary.

"But hecause it really ought to work it's more than that. It's a kind of tegendary will-o'-the-wisp, here on the Moon. Because it's a physicist's paradox. The energy, the principle, the design, are all in it and are only encoded out by tech-

in it and are only exceeded out by technical difficulties that diffy solution.

"Probably the toughest of these is that no metal or other substance is known to exist-from which to make a cable or wire that won't map under the tension of its own weight when extended even just a usual fraction of the two hundred and thirty time. I becomed miles. In these cable and the situation becomes worse. These there the problem of the angular momentum of anything coming from the Morn while trying to retain the asime Lanar orbital speed in a smaller circle. This would tent to wind the cable around the Barth. There's a tof of mathematics to the whole thing. Doe't ask me to recommer them now. It was never most peed at mathematics.

LONNIE HAMLIN'S face was termfing grey and tired. Yeah—I could remember how it was. The triumphaint trumpets in one's mind, turning to the rubber burp-devoces of denison. The av-

ful blow to young pride and egotism.

Hamilin was almost weeping.
"Dammit!" he starled. "You pair of
apes tricked me in this too. You should
have told me!"

I bet him have the answer, full force. "What are you looking for a goat to blame for your own foodishmen?" I demanded. "If we'd tried to tell you you would not have littened. You, the stnarguy, would have earlied use damb. So we did the best we could." You could see the version fairly melt.

ing out of him. He was in black exaggerated design. After a mement his pride attempted wildly to save itself. "Ifrecket jets were pleded at intervalsalong the cable to reduce the strain on it with their theust—"he began thickly. "Unb-unh" if denied. "You jumped to conclusions before. Now you're trying to

continuous before. Now you're trying to patch the Great idea up. You're using fuel, Yeu're making it complicated and dangerous and expensive, to the peint where a specialty is just as pord to haid freight and passengers." Jody chuckled sorrowfully. "Well," he said. "do weget hack to our water and

t expgen business or does Mr. Lon-Hambus till west to put us in pail?\*

Hamilin's eyes flasted us one painwracked glance of represch.

For better than a mouth the three of
its worked teesther, unsatisfully online

own weight, when extended even just a small fraction of the two hundred and is worked together, gractically coining thirty-time thousand miles between money. There'd never bean a strike his Meon and Earth. Put is load on such is the Holindes strike. LOAs of the claim-

#### THE GREAT IDEA

stakers got rich. Part of this wealth naturally found its way into the construe, on of better and safer spaceships for the Rarth-Moon circuit. That was one Sonny Bey stepped greaning quite soon. Yesh he had the ente to do it. here was soon a thour and a write in

him. The stockholders of his company got paid, so why should they kick? He became Ham to Jody and me, which is to say be use now an old timer Bark'in Luna City be continued his acquaintance with sretty Ross Minten-with the usual happy result. And Jady and I didn't on back to Porth like we have often meant to or

various occasion), as soon as we had the neire. It's a langer way have than it over seems to be. Maybe the Moon gets under your skin and holds you The airies plains and craters-th

mines-the new industrial cities springing up. When you're doing all right on Luna there's always some proposition or rainhow's end to hold you there. Marke it's nevtly Ham's fault. He's a funny guy. He didn't give up the Great Idea as easily as your like Jody and I did long ago-only remembering at wistfully and absorbishly for ten years. He's

But on the other hand, maybe this is really his wife's fault. Because now Rosa affects Jody and me-along these lines

-just as the does her husband. She's stubbeen and gentle and whimsical I remember what she said the other night, at Ham's and her apartmy The Great Idea is still around, boys. One naund on the Moon still weight six on Earth. There ought to be a way to harress the energy corresented by the difference to newer Lunar-Terrestrial

truffe, save lives and make the price of So we're all sort of interested in inresturating the matter further. Has any-



# oh-oh, Dry So

. renders a world of didle

e HAIR TONIC

Lates to DE. CHESTON, storing of his 148804017, on 1915 Wednesday mights.

## LOST ART

Want a Rigellian flower garden, a Moonflower, ar a Chlorian

THERE WAS Callerban," just in from Dento V, and he was quietly and slowly sipping his second torisand of stoot...the first had some down almost without touching the walls of his throat... when Brent walked info

"Hi, Collarhan," said Brent, " "Hi, Brent," returned Calleghan,

seither showing per feeling much enman, "Better make it a double."

Callaghan's sandy saveteness lifted slightly. Most spacemen have acquired

worlds of origin of the exotic times or aboard their own ships, at duty free prices. To order such a drink here, on Earth, implied the enjoyment of an income somewhat greater than that of a watch officer or even of a master. And Erent, to the best of Callaghan's know-

ledge and belief, was still no more than around relot of a tourist-class liner on the Centaurus run Callaghan looked at Brent with a cer-

tain curiosity, admitted to himself that the other's civilian clothes matched his taste in drinks, were just a little too well tailered and of too expensive a maferial for a anaesman in mufti. And he -Brent-had always been such a



# A Novelet by A. BERTRAM CHANDLER



STARTLING STORIES

scruffy young puppy in the days when Callachap, "Til pay for the stout," the two of them had been cadets to-- "There's no need-" began Brent. owther. "I newfer it that way," Callaghan told "What's 'the Red Setter drinking?"

asked Brent "The usual" said Callagham. "Stout And the name is Callaghan." "Have a silged," surged Brent. "Or

what about a class of that new licrace from Alpheratz Seven-tiper's kies or whatever they call it?"

"Stout," said Cellaghan.

DRENT gave the order: then: "I saw If that the Peopless was due in 1

thought I'd find you here." "The pleasure is all yours," said Cal-Inches.

"Don't say that you still remember that little bloude in Port Lasalle. That

two gradges that I could bear. But-True enough, thought Callaghan, True enough. But I wish that the man looked

more like a spaceman and Iros like a tout for a high class berdelle. "Are you still on the Centauring run?" Callaghan asked.

"Good heavens, no. There's no money in Space-at least, not in the Service He fished in his pocket, "Here," he said.

giving a card to Callaghan. Callaghan looked currously at the little oblong of plastic, at the words in their bold, black print.

### JAMES TRENT

LOST ARTS. INCORPORATED . " He soked, "What sort of racket is this ?"

Brent Isughed, "It's not a racket. We deliver the goods." "But what sort of goods?" " "Joe " said Brent to the harman

"yest've got a reem, haven't you? One with all the pand precautions?" "Yeah." Joe rentied. "Un the stairs.

first right. Shall I send anythine up?" "A bettle of slipst," said Brent. "And six bottles of stout," ordered

The drinks were on the table when they got to the room. Callachen nat down at once Brent satisfied himself that the screen generator, humming and flickering quietly to itself under

the table, was functioning properly. He returned the little testing device to his pocket, sat facing Callaghan. "You must make a babit of this," said

"Now and again. Some of our customers like secrecy. And some of them prefer to make their deals with us neithre in their offices nor ours."

"I said it was a racket." Brent shock his head. It's not. Now, Callaghan, suppose that you were a millionaire, and suppose

that your current mistress just bad to have a Rigoffian fairy garden for her "Td get me a new mistress. The mak-

ing of those falry earders is a lost art. and the museums wouldn't part with their sperimens for all the money in the Universe." "You'd come to us," said Brent "Or

surross this mistress of yours wanted a Moonflower?" "They've been extingt a comile of hundred years. Should I come to you ?"

"You should my boy. Previded that is, you have the folding money to pay 100 C . . "But what's all this to do with me?"

"Ab." said Brent. He refilled his own glass and Callaghan's tankard. "You know, Red Setter, I've always liked you. Really, I have. And I had this opportunity to do you a good turn . . . And,

mouth shut." "Go on." "Well, it's like this, We Lost Arts ...

have a shin. I'm putit now I've been captain, navigator, chief pilot and everything else that's needful. Of course,

than you do in the Service. From the most of the page was read in search if a been plenty—and I've had the earner of Bellerico.

ALAGRAN started at Breat, a smith was abled the doorman, receiving a way in the page of the p

Service and come into your swindle."
"It's sat a swindle. And you needy't resign. I've been making inquirico-dknow a giff in your personnel department—and I'm told that you're due a year's leavy. Way not make just one trip with ui 'and see-how you like it'! Master's salary seed a percentage of the

whether a source was a percentage of the talks.

"I'll think about it."

"Your Where can I find you?"

"Never mind that. I'll get in touch with you. I suppose you're in the Directory."

"Of course. But we leave on our next expedition in two months: time. You'll waste to be in your leaves of their and you waster that it waster to be found in which you waster that it waster to be found in which you waster that yo

expedition in two months' time, You'll work the state of the per familiar with a month of the per state of t

signe. You'll have to by authified with that."
"Six wooks from now, these," said Calshrian. He hoped, as he left the hor, that he wouldn't be too, late for his district. He hoped, as he left the hoped that he wouldn't be too, late for his child that he hoped has been also all His heat, this evening, was Bellerton, Chief of Palandurian Synthatics. He Bellerton, had twently with the Research and the hoped has been a second paids of the ship. "You must have dinner work me," he had told Calanghan. If was only a finet wolk from the

Titan Bar to the club. Callaghan wished,

bowever, that he had taken a taxicopter

enropously uniformed doorman watched

his podestrian arrival with contourns

kept him waiting at the over-ornate en-

for that aboundly small distance

any a patter agreement system c'olagolant asked the doorman, receiving no regity but a frozen stars.

"Ah, here yeq are, my boy," said Ballerton, buscling into the lobby. "Seine young whippersnapper of a juvenile admiral told me—" he raised his veice to a squeaky falsetto—"that a space-faring person washed to see me. But come.

ing issues weated to see me. But come along, well have a drink first, "Callinghan handed his outform cap and cleak to a superciliesa blinds, followed the little, portly industrialist." "Hill have to be the Stranger's Rec." "Hill have to be the Stranger's Rec." sery exclusive. I have member's privipages, of course, through my own debt on Dench Five, but I grefer the company of the strangers.

on Deckos Five, Bott I pretent the company of the strangers. The first was conformable company to the strangers of the strangers of the strangers of the strangers of the stranger of the stranger of the cube. Bellette drank which, Callaghan theck to his control, and the stranger of the rest not the cube. Bellette drank which, Callaghan theck to his control, and the strangers of the country, and Bellette. The stranger of the country, and Bellette. The stranger of the country, and Bellette. The stranger of the stranger of the country, and Bellette. The stranger of the st

"I met an old friend-jor shinmatebefore I came here," said Callaghan "He was dripking altool, I wonder if you've heard of his firm, Lost Arts, Incorporated, they call themselves." "H'm, Let me see . . . There was Twiss of United Minerals, he's always, had more money than sense. He set his heart on having a personne Chlorian prayer mot and, peedless to say, none of the moseums would part with their specimens, nor would the half- decen or so of private collectors who've got one. He did tell me that he was putting these Lost Arts people on the trail, and he's got his prayer mat now, a perfect

specimin. If you didn't know that the

STARTLING STORIES

out of earshot. "It gets him blackballed years ago, you'd awear that it was fresh every time that his name comes up for membership. The Archbishop is very about the same time he sold a block of hostile." two thousand shares in United Miner-"Stompo?" asked Bellerton, puzzled.

als." "No. He's selling his etamos. But his "They but afford fancy drinks, then," 'other interests,' as he called them. His said Colleghors little museum. Wait until you see it. "Who? Qo, the Lost Arts people, It they had to rely on my money, they him a blank check for. If he'd sell,"

wouldn't have enough for a glass of beer." "You're not a collector, Bellerten," asid one of two men who were standing next to the millionaire.

"No. Grimshaw. And I hope I newer "And your friend?"

LAUGH burst spontsneously from A Callaghan. He shook his head. "Postore storme as a kid" he sold "You should keep it up," the other

men teld him. "In your job you have the opportunities." "Still got your collection, Baker?" Grimshaw asked his friend. "Yes. But I'm thinking of selling. Other interests, you know." He finished

his drink. "What about comine out for dinner, Bellerton? And you, Mr .-- er-" "Callarhan," supplied Bellerton,

"Callarkan-ouite. Come slope too. Callaghan. Afterwards, we can look at

my little museum." "What do you pay, Callaghan?" asked Relierton.

"Thanks. I'd like to." -

Raker owned a large Spurling that, fitted with rockets instead of jets, could easily have been put on the Earth-Mars service. There was a uniformed prior with as much cold braid as the master of an interstellar liner and thought Calleghan, probably as much pay. You could have held a dance in the hir main

cabin-and, for those not fond of dancing, there was a well appointed har. Baker left his guests in their overstuffed comfort, went forward and took the controls. "Poor old Baker's collection," lausched Callaghan did not som in the conversixion but stayed through one of the windows, watching the world from which he had been absedt for so long. But Baker was fiving high and little was visible below them but cloud, and occa-

sional speriding city lights through the cloud. And above were the stars-clear. unwinking-and, thought Callaghan, their company was preferable to that of these fat, gross men with their stink of " money. Oh. Bellerton was all right, but he had been able to amass wealth more because of his shility as a chemist and an engineer than by any shoukeeper's

skill in buying and selling. And he would not as would these others, may a fantastic sum for some trivial object valuable only because of its rarity. Callaghan had once, as he had said collected stamps himself, but he had priver been a true collector. A common Vanadise temeent blue with its dearmingly executed picture of an airchip ecolog in to its mooring must was worth far more to him than the price-

less, but usly. Titanian fifteen-cept The thin, high whiatle of the Spurling's passage through the atmosphere graw increasingly audible as Baker brought her down through the clouds.

"There's his "place," said Grimshaw, pointing. "Looks like a young city," remarked Reflection. Then: "And not so young at thet." .

"He has quite a big staff," said Grimshaw. "A couple of hundred goards alone Mind you he needs 'em. There's one of his things that I'd be quite capship of knocking off."

T HIGH speed, the Spurling Baker. "It cost a million swooped down in a steep dive, the irregular rectangle of height lights ex--panded fast. It seemed to Callaghan ger ships, that Baker must have been neized by a sudden fit of suicidal receip-

formed intention of going forward and erabhing the controls. Reflecton milled "I've heard tales of this Balor," he

said. "He can outfly any pilot in theknown universe." He grinned, "Or at

Roker did not wall out of his diveturnet many them full Most. The ship shuddered and creaked, the three rossengers found themselves sprawling against the forward bulkhead of the eshin. Rottley reashed in the har and there was the smell of spirits the replacing of which would have root Callaghan a good two mouths' pay. Yet the actual

landing when it came, was feather light. Baker, coming aft from the nilst's compartment, was offersively jovial. "No hones hroken, I hone? Really, Callaghan, and you a spaceman! There's some excuse for these other two lesing their halance, but you-"

"Your bar is in roins," said Callaghan. "Oh, that. They'll clean it up. Come on. I want dinner."

Raker led them through the crusts grounds, past guard points where men and machines and huge mastiffs kent uncessing watch, into a house that, like its master, was plain and gross. The spaceman had a confused impression of red plush and dark mahoensy, of suits of entione armor standing like human. eid robots awaiting the word of command. The ricon in which they were to dine was small, oak nancled, candle-lit.

with dark oak beems scross the ceiling "From an old inv in Royland" said The food was simple but expensive

Here were no costly imported wines and viands-but the steak had been broiled oper chargoal rather than by high fraoutpey radiation, and the Buryandy, Callaghan encored, had been nurrhored with quality as the prime consideration. and the Stilton-the making of which was now almost a lost lart-must have cost, pound for pound, conally as much as any deliracy from the furthermost -planetary system of the Federation, .With the cheese rame a Port wine of

... so deep and rich a color in the light of "He wouldn't last five minutes in the the candles that it reemed carrilers to interstellar mail," gounted Callaghan, "drink it--and, having tasted it, sagrilege "Is he never pulling out?" - to think of leaving any in the decanter. Coffee and Kummel the class When the ground seemed but short see- warmed and the rim sprinkled with ands distant be swamp the jets in their covated natures, and Hayana cirary finished the meal. Baker sprawled in his chair, the ash from his cigar forling the front of his tunic, and looked at his quests through the blue smoke.

"As soon as we're finished smokes," he said, "we'll see my collec-"You'll enjoy it." Grimshaw told Bel-

"Shall It" "And your young friend will," said . Baker, "A spacepan, fresh from the

stars, woman-starved-"I was in the same ship," Bellerton so badly. Especially on dance mights. "A bit of a young dog, hey?" Baker leared at Callaghan, "Then he'll enter

it all the more. Callaghan started to feel a little sick. the three older men out of the little room that had become, with their cigar smoke rtore than a trifle stuffe. He wan't serry to exchange the flickering light of the archaic candles for that of the fluorescents outside. It was a long nessammes down which Raker led them a passareway floored and walled, and

STARTLING STORY roofed with dark, featureless plastic, at this," said Baker, picking one upt "I the end of which was a hune, steel door hought them all, and burned the other

like the door of a elegantic safe. "May I?" saked Callaghan. He leafed BAKER played with dials and levers through the book. It was verse, decafor at least five minutes, and then, dent years, and the illustrations moving slowly and ponderously, the masmatched. He handed the hook back sive tipor opened. They passed through "it's a pity you didn't burn all twelve," into darkness-a darkness that was im-. "And this," said Baker, "in a specilpenetrable when the door shut behind men of the youl med by the sailors on

them. Baker laurhed and said. "Now!" Fomalhant Three." "Schoolbay stuff," said Grimshaw. The poctures around the walls were "You know what I've come to see." the first to catch the attention. Naked "Not so fast," Baker told him. "Now, flesh and intricately, entwined limbs, gentlemen, what do you think of thee?

Sarsen did it for me, and he charend enough." This was a painting of what, at first glance, could have been some suggeous tropolal flower. At second and subse-

quent glances it wasn't. Grimshiaw was getting impatient, "How much more of this adolescent argut ??

"Ob. all right. All right. Come on." to a door that was a ministure of the one through which they had entered. He best river the disk and levers breathing heavily. When the door at

last opened all the lights in the hall went out and a single, amber-glowing light in the little room come on Like some huge sewel the crystal aphere lay on its nest

of block velvat. "The only one of its kind," said Baker, his gross body still blocking the little

doorway. "You'll have heard of the gridge an old man his simple plea-Sympats of Treggs, of course." "A little," said Callaghan,"

"Who were they?" asked Bellerton. "A humanoid race, iffishiting one of

the piecets of Achemar," Baker told

all. And there's at least one item that him. "The Lymners, inbabiting the -

same planet, belong to the same species. About six hundred of our years ago they had a war, and wined the Symnats off the face of their planet. They didn't like what the Sympats did-to pass the long, winter evenings. After the war they destroyed every specimen of the Symmetr' art that they could lay their

graph of the Casmian fertility rites-

"Two men died cetting that," said Baker. "I've destroyed the negative." Therewere rare books in exquisite bindings "They did a Breated edition of twelve of

lawhon begind at Baker, saw the elearning eyes, the moist, pensual parted lips. returned his game, the ironical expression on his face saving, as plainly as words, "Schoolboy smut!" Callaghan looked at Bellerton, and saw discust strengting with an axid interest. He was pleased to see that disrust won.

the art of leve made enduring involt and

pigment for all time by masters. Cal-

"My erotics," said Baker. "The Creeks had a better word for it," said Grimshaw, "Pornography," "And dirty little boys in the streets of

Peet 'Almain," said Bellerton, "sell dirty little mestanists! But they aren't onlite as dirty as this." "And you Mr. Callaghan?" asked

"Fifth," raid Callaghan. "But you're young. You wouldn't be-

ures !\* "I would so." "Ah, the intelerance of youth, But come greatlemen—the pictures aren't

check for. But he's not getting it The pictures, as Baker bad said, were not all. There was, for example, a solidohands on. One or two keep turning upthe museum at Worrillunger has a lissif-—a dog-like creature. And at Port Gregory they have a Lymner warrior. Not counting my own, there are only six

known specimens."
"But what did the Sympats do?"
saked Bellerton.
"Long apo." went on Baker, "certain

savage tribes on this world made a hobby of collecting and shrinking the heads of their ensures. The same kind of thing has been done on many of the known worlds. But the Sympats took the entire body and shrank it in perfect proportion, preserving the finished work of art in ervatal. Assubers?

HE MOVED away from the decision, bed his geneta into the tmp recen. Beautiful against its deed black setting the crystal sphere glowed, sammly golden. And, deep within the lucent transparency, were two figures, a mins sig a woman, both naked. Their mouths were pressed together in a kine, their bodies were pressed together. Their faces were better the man would have been not more than in the property of the company of the c

"Beautiful," breathed Grimshaw.
"I almost envy them," said Bellerten aurprisingly. "I feel that they're still alive, somehow—that they're been from for all eternity in that one, suc-

"Something wrong here," Callaging and trying to keep his wice matter of fact. "From what I can remomer of my history the worlds of Achernar wer first resulted not earlier thin a hundred years age—Banning's expedition, warry it? And yet those—people are, as fa I can ose, defaulty human. They've both got red hart, too, and nose of the traces like as in the known universe un traces like as in the known universe to the property of the trace of the second to the property of the traces. And Dormers are because it where don't—and Dormers are because it we don't—

ip— wondered. "One that got lost, somehow, issit and left no record?" reg. "No. Six handred years ago we didn't have rockets, let alone interstellar six ships."
"We own theory." said Baker. "is that

LOST ART

"My own theory," said Baker, "is that these were two Earth people kidinged, as specimens, by the Moercons. Lugand has it that their asing visited our plared during one of their mass migrations. They might have called in at Treggs to have their specimens mounted, and

nomehow left this one behind when they pushed on." "Could be," agreed Callaghan. "But all the evidence, such as it is, indicates that the Moreon drift was from south

to north, not north to south."

"The originace, such as it is," said.
Baker, "is no more than myth and leging end, and where the Morcons finally
de landed up nobody knows."

"You could almost aware you saw

them move," whispered Grimshaw.
"How seach, Baker?"

"More money than you can lay your hands on."

For a while the four men locked at the two little figures, their eleman moment imprisoned in enduring crystal, in the preparing to go, hepherded his greats out of the sheine of the crystal sphere, li hack into the hall of blatant and vulgar perpengancy. Bloopies any per had played but a small part in Callagham's life, yet he felt a feding almost of kinchip to the

sham little man in the crystal, a vague unessee or of that had in it a Rittle of easy; or ye Taker, having displayed his treasures, several and sich is bolt, was no longer intended to rested in his gasests. He offerest been received in this gasests, the offerest been received in the gasests. He offerest been referred to the control of the property of the comparison of the control of the cont

STARTLING-STORIES

collection. And Callaghan, as he pondered over the events of the evening, was not so sure that he did envy the two lovers after all. An eternity of being eleated over by men like Baker (Did they know? 'Could they know?) would

be so near to Hell that no difference could be detected.

shaw break the silence. 'T'll get one like it. Relierton. I'll get one like it, no matter what it costs. I know some people..." On down-pointing jets the bir Sourline drifted in to the Terran Glub landing field, and there Callaghan said good night to Bellerton and Grimshaw, Baker's pilot said that he would take him to the port, but Callaghan refused the offer. He walked back to his ship and

the cold, night air and the thin, thill be saw the floodlit tower that was houses, he feit more like a man again, and less like a spetty-faced, prurient

minded adolescent. - But be dreamed that he and a desirable woman were imprisoned forever

FXT DAY Callaghan spent handfor over responsibilities to his relief. That evening he left the ship, feeling very just and lonely. He had no people -his father and mother had been killed in the Martian Mail disaster of '83, his on Regulus IV, and the last time that he she and her husband were boringly burolic. His school friends were all married and fived in a world in which he

was the veriest alien—the smur, some That night he spent at the Astronauts' Club, made a few unpromising visiphone calls to various acquaintances. one of the big divisibles for a West Indian cruise and soon had his bellyful of rum and aynthetic calvrenes. He left the sirship at Panama City, traveled to Port Kingaford in Westralia by the next Antipodean rocket. A Moon ship was leaving a bare two hours after his arrival, and so he went to the Moon

The combination of razged grandeur and tinsel charm held him for a while and then both the spacesuited mountainearing and the feverath quiety baide the Pleasure Dome palled, so he took the Lunar Ferry back to Earth. Just six weeks had elapsed since he had paid off from Persons.

After the Freezy had landed Callachan went straight to the pearest phone booth. He dialed for World Directory. asked the girl whose face appeared in the arrest for Lost Arts. Incorporated. "Their office is in New York," he was told. "A call will cost you seventeen condita "

Callachan, who had taken the arecaution of changing two tenuredit notes into the necessary tokens, fed seventeen of the big metal discs into the slot. The screen blanked; then a new picture formed-an office switchboard, "Lest Arts." said the charming, expensive bisede, "lacorporated,"

"Can I speak to-Mr. Brent?" "Whom shall I say is calling?" "Calleghan." "Just a moment, Mr. Callaghan." -

The picture shifted to a sumptuous office Root-looking fatter and many prosperous even in six short weekswas sitting at a deak the polished top of which was big enough for an ice bockey match

"Ah." he said, "the Red Setter. So you're coming in with us."

"The parce's Callaghar." "Have a good time on the Moon?" "How did you know I've been there?"

"So my spies have informed me." laughed Brent. "But you're calling from Port Windson and I harmen to know then turned in early. The next day he that the only ship due there today is the Lunar Ferry, Furthermore, my dear started his travels. He took passage on

roller and nicked up a tan that meaks highly for the Pleasure Dome solarium. . . How soon can you be here. "There's a Transatlantic rocket this

afternoon," Callaghan answered. "Take it then. At our expense." "I travel free on leave, as you should know."

"Pd forwotten." Brent said. "Send in an expense account, anyhow. Interstellar Mail dosan't buy your drinks for

It was still early afternoon in New York when the Transatlantic rocket roared in. Brent was waiting at the airnort with his big, private Spurling, a machine only a little less ornate than .Raker's had been. Brent, bowever, did not run to a liversed pilot. He could afford one, he was eareful to explain to Callneban, but he liked to keen his hand

THEY few over the city. Brent keep ing his ship a respectable distance above the three-thousand-foot towers. He pointed out one of theel to Callago han, who was in the pilet's compartment with him, saving, "There's our office. In the Metcalfe Building Two whole figers."

"You must be doing nicely." "Very nicely. Wait until you see my place on Long Island"

The Long Island place was new, built in that style of architecture modelled unon starship design. Give it a Drive Unit, thought Callaghan, and it'll fiv. . . It was a spaceship in gleaming white plastic standing in the centre of two square miles of park land. It recked of

money. The hangay was in the hase of the huilding, the entrance being between two of the dommy first. From the hangur a . lift took Callaghan and his host up to a enactions living room, occupying one complete deck of the "ship." It was well furnished with deep easy chairs, lavishly unholstered louises. There was a

Watson, you've lost your Deep Space shelves upon which were stucked reel after reel of tapes. There was even a booksase-although, Calleghan noticed. the offt on the bindings of the books was suspiciously bright and untarnished. Three neonle were watching the video

LOST ART

show when Callaghan and Brent came in. They got to their feet as the two entered. "This is the Red Setter." asid Brent, "otherwise Callaghan, Callaghan, Miss Frayne," Callachan howed. "Dr.

Overholts, Mr. Taylor," Callaghan shook hands with the men. R was Vega Frayne who held his attention. She was almost as tall as he-

and her hair was as red so his own. She had high checkbones and a full, sollen mouth. The fifthey green thing that she was wearing matched the green of her eyes, did little to hide the long, slim grace of her limbs and body.. And Callashan felt for her the revulsion that red histori meorile so often do feel for each other. And she feels it, too, be thought. But I've seen har before some,

"Miss Frayne." Breat was saving. "It. like rourself, a newcomer in our organination. Just as we now want a full-time captain to our ship, so we want a full-

"Taylor, here," the little, gray, winened man gripped without warmth or bolts." his little black eves are like cur-

time archaeologist.

rants in dough, thought Calinghan, "is our technician. He studied under Mannschen as a young man." "He's the type," said Taylor, staring

at Callaghan, and laughed. Brent frowned at the business man. "Of course he's the type. By the time you've finished your cadetahip with Interstellar Mail, you're enalified to take any ship in Space. No need to went for a brass hat."

"And what field do you specialize in. Miss Frayne?" asked Callaghan, "Earth, Mars-or beyond?" "Beyond," she said. "I not my doc-

tee's decree for my thesis on the Transuidi video with a ten-foot screen, sozian culture of Procyca Twelve, but

104 STARTLING STORIES recently I've been doing field work on "But I did," I couldn't just stand there Achernar Six-Tregga, as the natives and watch and listen to the thing in: call it. But those damned Lymners? Do you know, they've left hardly a trace of

the old Syemat culture." "Can't say that I blame 'em." said Callachan. "The butterfly has no cause

to love the butterfly collector."

"So you know something about 'em." soid Breed

He walked to the ber, poured drinks for his questo and himself. He said You see that I got a newter pot for you.

Liffey water from Dublin, ... Here's to "We thall be going to Treggs," said Taylor, "There's a man called Baker

who has a rather fine specimen of the - when he took Brent's spare Sourling out old Sympat art, and there's another man called Grimshaw, with more money than sense, wants another one just like it.

"We shan't," said Vega Frayne "There just aren't any more ninces left,

found, the Lymners would amuch it." ALLAGHAN stared at Vega for a Glong moment before answering

"Fre seen one of those-nicon," Callaghan said slowly, "Tell me-what hanpens when they're smashed?" "The things inside the crystal," Taylor explained, "shrunken though they are, aren't really dead. But when the crystal is broken they do die rather slowly and horribly. I found one, once, in my digging in the Kon-Semar rums.

A bilthoi, 'it was, one of those big. draught animals of theirs, shounk down to the size of a Spaniel. And while I was admiring it. Stirrik my Lymper foreman, rushed up and shattered the crystal with his spade. It seemed, then, that the boths! Juled to exceed to its proper size. It screamed for a long time and went on arresming even when it was no more than a huge heap of burst

and tattered flesh."

Breat

Brent went on quickly, "Your foreman, I mean. The fool? "Yes, I did feel like shooting him. . .

But, as Mr. Callaghan has pointed out, those people have every reason to hate even the memory of the Symnets." "So there you are," said Brent, "All . you have to do is to take our shin-Collector, we call her-to Tregga. And you set your salary and a five percent

"If we find his specimen," said Vera "We shall find it," said Brent, Collector as Callaghan discovered vessel. He showed the watchman his

ship. She wasn't new, had been built as long as twenty years ago as an interstellar tramp. Her accommodation had been modified and vastly improved, howcargo space was now fiving quarters. One thing annoyed Callaghan, All the ship was open to him, including the control and reaction drive rooms, but not

the Manuschen drive chamber. Neither the watchman-nor the spaceport officials knew where the key was. Callochan not through a call to Breat, was told by him that only Overboltz had access to the interstellar drive. "Damn it all!" exploded Callaghan.

"You want me to be master of this blasted alin of yours, and the essential guts of her are hidden away from me like jam from a schoolboy!" "Dr. Operholts' studied under Mann-

schen," said Brent, "He's forgotten more about the Drive than you and I will ever know. Besides-once we're in space you can stare at the blasted thing

all you like. We always been it shut in And with that Calisrhan had to be

"You should have shot him," said satisfied He sneat more time, thereafter, at the spacement than at Brent's become eatablishment. He was prepared to be friendly to Brent-after all, they had. I haven't broken any Federation laws been shipmates-but soon found that the man, after resignation from the Service had become even more insufferable than

he had been as a junior officer. He had nothing in common with Taylor, and Overhoits, outside his mathematics, was interested only in coting and drinking Callachan was prepared to admire Vega Frayne from a distance and the buner' the distance the better. Her resource in ago room in which he was affected him as a cat does persons who are affered to

those charming saimals. Callaghan stored the ship, checked the working of such instruments as were accessible to him. He learned from Brent that the additional accommodation is the cargo spaces was to be occupied; learned, too, that Collector was taking cargo in what remained of her capacity. This cargo, when it came, intrigued him immensely. One crate, when he opened it, he discovered to contain steel crosshows. Another contained awards. Yet another, small mussle-leading canron, Among the ship's stores were cases of

AT LAST came sailing day, Brent's A bir Spurling drifted in to the landing field, bringing Brent, Taylor, Overholtz and the girl, Vega Frayne, Another ship arrived, a big transport, and gorillas that Callaghan had ever seen. They were all in brown uniform, and mation. They were told by Brent to so to the accommodation in the caren Spaces.

"Why the goon squad?" asked Callaghan so he met Brent by the boarding - POSSE.

. . POh. I zlways take Sergeant Grimes and his men along, just in case "In case of what? I tell you, Brent that I'm having some of this if it's not legal. I've got a certificate to worry about. After all-I'm still an officer of

- LOST ART the Interstellar Mail." "So what? Don't worry, Red Setter,

> vet." He laughed, "I couldn't." "What do you mean?" "Never you mind, Cot the Clearence?"

"Then what are we waiting for? Take

They entered the ship, and as Collector's airlock door closed the rame was drawn sway. The erere lamp was finaling from the signal tower. Callaghan and Brent took the lift to the central room, found Overholts already sitting there. Callaghan took the pilot's chair, Brent sat by the duplicate controls. Callaghan pressed the stud that would set the alarma to ringing. He gave those below time to get into their acceleration couches, flyen pressed the master key of

the interplanetary drive. Collecter lifted rising on stilts of fire. In the centrol while a clerk made entries in a book. \*Wish I know how that fallow does it " said the port captain at last. "Used to be a jurger officer with ISM -- and look at him now. His own ship, a private army-did you see 'em?-and the Lord knows what else-"

"He'll go too far, Captain," said the elerk.

N THE beginning the voyage was

nothing out of the ordinary. It was, however the first time that Callachan had sailed in command, and he handled Collector with an old-womanish care that made Brent sneer. Brent, however, did not offer to take over any of Callaghan's

"I'm entoying this," headmitted, "The old Red Setter playing at mail liner cantains, and me just a passenger. . . Go to it. Red Setter. Gather ve rosebads while

the round shoulder of Terra, set her nose for Achievare. He looked at Overholtz.

"I amonore," he said, "that the Drive wasn't happy about it. It was the first is ready? time in his life that he had left the oin-"Yes, Herr Konitan. And why should trol reem unmanned.

it not be, with Overholtz himself is He pulled himself through the central charge?" well of the ship, past the entrance to the "Why should it be?" countered Callounce, from which came the sound of hashan. "But I shan't be needing it yet. - voices. He didn't want to join the party Want to build up acceleration first." vet. He wanted to see what Owerbeltz

At thirty may be cut the Martellia with his right hand, pressed with his left At the deck on which the Manaschen the switch that would out the Mann-Drive unit was housed, he naused then schen Drive into operation. The thunpulled himself through a doorway, A der of the rorkets faltered and died, the few feet along the girmlar alleyway be thin, high whine of the Drive slid rapidcarns to the close to the Drive Helt Cornly up the scale to the supersonic Ahead

partment, opened it and nassed moids. It some carnie deity had palled the switch. dissiness induced by the merest slance at those reasolessly spinning, ever menumes, the sensation of an invisible, al cessing wheels. And then he was aware but intanvible, barrier suddenly vielding, that Overholts was talking to him comes with Free Fall. protesting, "I will not! You should have

"Let her ren yese Red Setter," sald Brent, "Come on down to the lounge for "I should not, Dr. Overholts. I am the A Stock " master of this ship." "Not just ret. I want to make sure "Very well, then, You are, you say," that everything's in order."

the master. What do you understand of "Don't be a bloody fool. This isn't the ---I.S.M., you know. If you think that con-"Callaghan looked quickly at the hazy troll's soing to be nermanently manned complexity of elegating rotation, looked quickly away.

vourself as the watchkeeper. Come on." "Not as much as you." he admitted 'No, not just yet." But I know enough to start and stop, to apply routine tests." "All right. Come on, Overholtz "A mere bus driver!" smorted the Where's Taylor?" -

"He said he was feeling a little sick scientist. "But you must be told sooner or later-and it is better that I. Over-He went below as soon as our Herr Konboltz should tell you than the fool Brent itse switched over. And I must see how or the fool Taylor. You see what I am

"Oh, all right. I'll see you both later. "ALLAGHAN studied the little ma-CALLAGRAN assess on at odd angles, Left to himself, Callaghan made a few minor adjustments. Then there was that Overholtz was assembling. nothing to hold him in Control any long-"It looks" he said "like a Conwahais er-vet, even so, it was with a very real Unit. But Brent said that we hadn't got from his chair, pulled his almost weight-"For once he has uncless the truth." less holy along the coide raffs to the

He passed impressively. "This is an Overboltz Unit." "What does it do?"

"What does a Crawshaw Unit do?"

hatch. He knew that the alarms would sound in the event of any emergency. and that it was a million to one chance against such an emergency, but he "It controls temporal précession, or that ships can continue to accelerate, continue to lose reactives mass, whilst the Mannichen Drive is in operation." "Correct—as far as you have goot. You know what hanomed to the first in-

teratellar ships—the ones that got leat?"

"The general idea is that their navigators didn't understand the Drive properly, that they continued to-accelerate—and got bot in Time. Using a Drive unit made to his own apselficiation Larantzial to travel in Time—and he never.

sen tried to travel in Time—and he never came back."

"Larsen did not have Overholts to belp him. With this baby of mine," he patted the machine on which he was

working affectionately, "he could have supped with Nero, and returned to tell the story."
"But Sterinsky, after Larson's experi-

ment, proved that Time Travel was impossible."

"A fool: They're all fools, My young friend," Callaghan stepped hastify back as Overclotte sprayed him with saliva, "when I have made enough money in this childish moket I shall build a marking

"when I have made enough money in this childish reside I shall build a machine to take me not to the barbaric past but to the future, to the future, do you hear? To an age where the genius of Overholts will be appreciated."
"That?" be nice for everyone," said

Callaghan. "But what does it do, this machine of yours!"
"It makes money," reared Overholts. "Money that I have to aliare with the fools! Money that should all go to the mornishment of my results! Now-yes.

noursament of my genus; Now-got out?"
"Are you ordering me?"
"Easy, Overholts," said Brent. Both men started at the sound of his voice. "Creating and spring," angled the

scientist. "Creeping and apping Why ever I did with you my lot cast..." Tangled in his own words he lapsed into mattered incoherences.

"Come on, Callaghan," said Brest.
"He's quite harmless, really."
"I wouldn't carry him as hallast."
"Frankly," said Brest, dropping his

voice, "neither would I. But we have to have him. I'll tell you all about it laber, But we'll leave him to his toys."
"I don't like it," and Callegham. "Tim master, here, and as master I refuse to have a—madman playing around with the Drive Unit."

LOST ART

"He's all right, I tell you. He's forgotten more about this thing than you and I, as navigators, ever learned. Come on." I don't like it."
"All right, you asked for it. You're

"All right, you asked for it. You're on the Register as marter, but I'm owner."
"In deep space that doesn't matter a tinker's dawn."
"Deem't it?" asked Brent softly.

"Doesn't it?"

He pulled a whistle from his pocket, blew a single blast. Before Callaghan had time to wonder what it was all about he full the muscle of a bluster diggle into his back, heard a strange voice say,

"Shall I shoot, boss?"
"Nor damn you, Crimes. I want him.
As soon as the rest of your goons come
along, snap the irons on him and get him
along to his quarters. Lock him up. And

along to his quarters. Lock him up. And keep a guard poated."
"Okay, tons."
"Matiny!" abouted Callaghan. "You'll pay for this, Brunt. You may be tick but the LEJM. Is richer. If I don't kill

but the I.S.M. is richer. If I don't kill you first, they'll break you into pieces 'so small that they wouldn't make a square meal for a midget phagocyte!"
"Take him away, Crimes," said Breat.
"Fill be seeing you later, Red Setter."

"Cut out, all of you?" believed Overholts, "Can I never any work do in this bediamzed abus?"

bedamzed ship?"

If WAS the girl, Vega Frayne, who was
the first to visit Callaghan in the

the first to visit Collaghan is the comfortable quarters that had become his prises. In a way, Callaghan was 04taond to have her welk into the cabin.

pleased to have her walk into the cabin. Since his imprisonment he had seen nobody but the surly, tacitum guard who

body but the surly, tacitum guard who brought him his meals. Yes, he was pleased, and yet her presence in the 188 STARTLING STORIES
eablin made the hairs at the back of his expert on the Sympat culture of Trogganeck prickle, raised gosselfesh on his The Principal tool me later that he was
ledy.

"also most concerned about the law and

Vegs. Frayne flashed a smile to the guard who had let her m, pulled bennel! supposed to tell me all this, but he did to a chair opposite to the one in which all who had the her m, but he did not be tell me all this, but he did Callaghra was ritting, tuckled harraff in. Arts is a reputable firm! he said, "and Ste anil." What have woo been domin!" M. Frent it a semileran."

"What have you took own;"
"What have I been deing! What's
Breat been doing, you mean. De you
know that he's luid himself open to a
him before he starts," premined Callagcharge of mutiny in deep space? And
han. "But tell me—have you actually

know that he's laid himself open to a himself even starts," premited Callage charge of motiny in deep space? And han. "But tell me—have you actually that carries a life sentence."

"life spowerful," said the girl.
"Treat? Powerful," have him. "and for the trip firest acked me about.

"Breat? Pewerful, "said the girn.

"Breat? Pewerful, "My. I knew him he was a scraffy little rat who had to be builled into taking a shower."

"And that's why be hates you, cal"their final overthrow. I wasn't able to tell him much—the lymmer destroyed

"And that's why he hates you, Cal- tell him much—the Lymners destroyed laghan. Just one of the reasons. He almost escrething. Then I remember frightners me, and I'm not easily scared. Brent saying: 'Oh, weapons... What I'm surprised that he let me in to see did they we'. He laughed then and said

you. All that he said when I saked was, Go on in, my dear. This may be the beginning of a beautiful friendship—or re, have they?

semothing even better. Then he leered in that horrid way of his."

"He let you come in because you send he received would be the one he sus-

cold silvers down my back, and he pected. It was The girl said:
knows it." "Surprisingly primitive, considering
The girl smiled, and the smile made their skillin other things. They had a

ber normally sullen mouth basuitful. She sort of crossbow, and they'd just got said, "And you send cold shivers down pround to mucche-leading cannop. And my back, so we're quite. But I'm frightened, Calinghan. I feel as much a pris- "All of which," said Calinghan, "we

core as you. I have to mix with the others at meals and they, Taylor and "Burthat's silly, There's been no war Berthat's silly, There's been no war were some kind of apositione, with a sort regar since the Sympata were with the work of how-many-retrible-sake-overh ax will be your efficient naulysers. Expos."

prensian. Also Overheitz is completely she grinned. "They caught me moothteed. And that horrid man Grime—he ing award a ferkidden temple, and they have his with us—puts me in mind of some fifthy gorilla that's just itching yards."

to carry me off into the jungle and.

And so they talked, pooling their obn, 1 bate your guts, Calleghan-just scanny knowledge, trying hard to make chemistry or something. I outpose—but you the talk you have been shown in which they had become involved. If you have been as you for their to have the say for them to have the say for the

swindler?

Through the University Brent asked ployers were madmen, but the university the man of archivestopist will doubted financial access of Lost Arta, itsy to me on me but tron, norm-body. Incornegated, save the lie to that theory.

LOST ART FINALLY the girl said that it was time for her to so. The sward at the

door leared at her as she left. She ignored him. - Callaghan, sorry that she was gone, yet thankful, settled down again in his chair? He reached for a cigarette, nuffed sharnly to ignite it. inhaled deeply. He wanted to get the very amell of her out of his system.

Brent came in, and with him, Grimes. Both were armed. "Don't bother to put out the red carpet, Cantoin Callaghan," said Brent,

"This is just an informal visit, even though we are dressed to kill. Don't get alormed hust loking." "What do you want?"

"Oh, nothing, nothing, Charming girl Miss Frayne, isn't she?" "Is abo?"

"Oh, yes-you're both allergic to redheads, aren't you? A nity in some ways, Because you're going to see a lot of her." "What do you mean?" "I could mean all kinds of things. I could mean that you and that carroty cat

are come to break your contracts as soon as we got to Treasur and wander off together, hand in hand, into the sunset."

"fen't it inst? But that's poing to be my story. After all, both LS.M. and the University are soing to wonder what's becomed to two such handsome and talented members of their respective

staffs." "You swine! Are you going to merder her ton?" "Who said anything about murder, Red Setter? I give you my word," and Callaghan believed him, "that murder is very far from my intentions. After

the polden cores." "I'm not laying any golden eggs bern," said Callaghan. "You engaged me as master, at well above standard ratio, and I'm making the voyage as a prison-

er."

"What the hell are you playing at?" Brent didn't answer. He said, instead., "You know, Callaghan, Fye alwave bailed you over since we were cadets together in the old Graffin. You were always so damned perfect, weren't you? When any of the officers wanted profiting done it was always 'Rend for Cellaman: be'll make a good job of it."

you well, don't we?"

with any of the more sporty passengers. of was always you who spelled things. " He mimicked Callaghan's wase. " T piri if I were you, old man; she'll only get you into trouble." Oh, I could so on and on And I know that you werned. Cassila aminst me-"

"Are you dragging that up?" saked-Callaghan, "She was a decent girl, and still is, so far as I know. She wouldn't have been if she'd got mixed up with V00."

"Saint Callaghan, the beattfied Red-Setter. Remember when you destroyed all those solidographs I got in Port AL man? \*The Commander had all our lorkers searched after we blasted off. If he'd

found those filthy things-"Oh, you make me sock. Come on, Grimes, let's leave the maint to his meditations. He won't be so damned saintly

much longer." They left him then, and Callaghan tried to make sense of what had been said. He was more sharked than he cared to admit by the naked bate that he had been shown. He had tried, he told himself, to help Brent. He had helped Brent. Then he remembered once, when the pair of them had had a little too much to drink Brent declaiming upon all, one doesn't kill the goose that lays the subject of the four freedoms. "There should be a fifth." Breat had almost shouled. "A fifth freedom. The free-

dom," "And that is?" Callaghan bad

asked "The freedom to on to hell your

own way," had been the reply. A goard came in then with a meal. "Or a first class passenger. We feed Callaghan vicked at it, still too shaken

by his interview with Brent to feel like transparent and nebulous, flickered be--eating. After the man had taken the fore his ease, mouthing ethberish, drifttroy there was nothing to do but sleen. ing out turkwards through the door Callaghan slept, And there were Brent and Grimes, and

CO THE days, the timeless round of all moving in specied up reverse motion. od of at least ten minutes-and as they Vega Frayne was a frequent visitor; and each time that she came in Callaghan reared there was darkness, deeper than was perturbed by her appearance and the darkness between the stars, almost

solid, pressing ih. manner. She was becoming tittery and her Martelli and Mannachen Drives ceased hands were never still. There were dark together, and this time there was no circles around her eyes. She goked, pointlessly, "What do you know?" and, brutally sudden, and in spite of his un-

ease and wonderment, Callaghan poneach time. Callagian countered with, "What do you know?" Once she said. dered upon the problem of braking the "I like you, Callaghan," and, "I hice Drive Unit, conceded that Overhelts you," he had replied. He took her hand must have consetking. But-"The foot" he muttered. "He could have turned us -and dropped it as though it had been all inside out . . ." semething unclean. She said, "Blast and double blast they allered?" For the last time the rockets came on. There came the day when the Drive to sleep. He woke up when the door to

his cabin slid open and two of the quards processing wheels dropped Asses the thrust Vega Frayne through the openscale from the superscoic, dropped from a thin, high keening to a low, dull hum "What--?" he began. -then ceased. There was the feeling of "I'm's prisoner, too. And we're landtension, the converter instability of ing in an hour's time." every cutline, the shift of colours alone "But where? Tregga?" the spectrum. Then everything was normal again as the hip Martellis neured "Yes," she told him. "Tregga. But

was cut, when the note of the spenning,

seemed to Callaghan that Vega Frayne,

all of any hundred years ago." out their decelerating blasts along Collector's line of flight. So far, all was They landed on Treggs, and Brent position was still. Collaphan admitted, a skillful Callaghan had no means of checking pilot. For a long time nothing happened. taken his watch when he had been imeach other as possible, and smoked, ex-

prisoned. But it shemed that the rockets changing an occasional pointless remark. Once Callaghan get up and had been roaring for long enough when they were cut. Callaghan braced himprowled around his quarters, trying to saif for the shock of landour. But it did find something that could be used as a not come wespen. He had made the same search The Mannachen Drive came on again. many times before, and with the same the sound of it shrilling high and higher, result. He sat down again.

pergine the cardrums, the skull stack, The door slid open. Brent was there, and Toylor, and Grimes, and four of his It was somehow different more prinful, more gut wrenching. And then came men. With them stood a heing rengbly a short blast from the rockets, shruptly human in share, approximately human in annearance. There were three even from the ferebood, and the mouth was a

starting, abruptly stopping. There was another short blast. Then another, It in the green face, and tendrile aprouted vertical instead of a harizontal slit-but it was clothed, and it carried weaponsa sword and a dagger-so it could be presumed to be a rational being. It said language unknown to Callaghan. He had visited Tregge but briefly and on only one occasion-and, like most spacemen, he expected the inhabitants of foreign worlds to be able to speak English.,

LOST ART

THE door slid shut, leaving the man and the girl alone again. "What did he say?" saked Callaghan "A literal translation," said Vega Frayne, "would be 'Can do. But first. The Sympat who had inspected the you pay. "Can do sebat?" asked Callagian

And then the answer, the unutterably obscepe answer, flashed into his brain, His face, as he looked at the cirl, was deathly pole, "Have you a knife?" he asked "A pair of scissors? Anuthing?" "But soky?" "Recause I'm going to kill you, and

then myself. The lost art of the Symnata . . . Have-you seen the specimer that a fat swine called Raker has in his muscum? "No." she said. Then, almost screaming, "But I've heard about it! You don't mean. . . ? You otn't mean. . . ?\* "Yes. There's another fat swips.

called Grimshow, who wants one like at and our Mr. Brent is going to supply ar almost exact replies. Or thinks he is Steady, now, I'll be as quick as I can." She shuddered away from him so his fingers closed about her white throatshuddered away, then, with shut ever and backfung head, waited, "It wen't

be long," promised Callaghan. . "Get him!" shouted Brent. He had come in silently, the faithful Grimes and two of his bullies with him. "Get him! Good men! But careful, careful! I don't want either of 'em messed up." Callaghan struggled, but the sergeant and his men were too strong for him. He saw that Brent had flung the cirl on the low settee, was snapping a pair of handruffs about her wrists. In a matter of seconds Callaghan was manacled too. Grimes slapped him across the face, hard, with his open hand. "Careful, I said." admonished Brent 'Den't damage the . . . sperimens." The "specimena" were dragged out of Already ramus had been risked to the carm ports. About half of Grimes' even

agand were engaged in sliding down crates and packing cases to the waiting Sympata, the others were stationed at strategic points around the ship, squatting behind triped-mounted heavy blusters and machine-guns prisoners met Brent at the foot of the gangway. Arms and tendrils waving,

he kunched into a string of sputtering incomprehensibilities. "He says," whispered Vega Frayae to Callaghan, "that what he has received isn't enough. He says that Brent, when he was here before, promised him fire Said Taylor to Brent, "Why not give

the pants off the Lymners, why should "We card do it " said Brent "I don't know why-better ask Overholtz. He said that we should be . . . interfering, that we should be shunting the world on to a different Time Track or somethong.

"Not olir world. It wouldn't hart so." "Wouldn't it? If these damped Symnats win the war with the Lymners, if they carry on with their lost art, how much are the specimens already in our New York vaults worth?" "You've got something there," said

Taylor, "Stall him off, semebow." "Til tell him," said Brent, "that just for the fuse that he's been kicking up. he'll get no more until he's done the job. Grimes! Tell your men to belay everything. And den't let these green swine our blasters and machine-runs after the

lay their hands on a single cannon!" "There's a way you could get over st." suggested Taylor. "Let him have half

STARTLING STORIES job is fraished. Then make a free rift you care to look at it. But Time for you, of the other half to the Lympers-so my charming people, is going to stop," they cancel out?" . . Before them loomed the sucred crys-"Brent's eyehrows went up. "Capital?"-

Brent histored for a while with the Sympat chief. Callaghan looked about him. The ship was herthed in the middle of a clearing. On all sides towered the preciominate vegetation of Tremes until the introduction of foreign flora by the Enderston shins. But it would be many a century, thought Callaghan, before the

through the eternal overcast. Directly consite the main airlock a path stretched away from the ship, a path surprisingly straight and regular. And down this path, after a last sibilant exchange with Brent, the Sympat chief led the party from Collector. In addition to - Vega Frayne, Callaghan, Brent and Corvella rises, it won't be long before Taylor there were a half dozen of Corrella crosses the meridian . . . It's

Grimes' men, armed with hand blasters and automatic rifles. And there were a dozen Sympat warriors carrying long," nely spears. Just before they vanished out of sight from the ship Overholtz appeared in the airlock. "Don't be too lone," he shoeded

#### "I cannot hold her lenger than six hours!" "We'll be back?" shouted Brent

DARKNESS came suddenly. And with the dark come light-of a sort. . A wan radiance, dim and flickering, that played over the home femal, now blue, now green. Something flapped heavily overhead, realling as it flew. Something else was ercoking at intervals so regular that they might have been chromometer

timed. The air peaked of cold, wet decay. "And here we are," said Brent, "Take "s good look, Red Setter, and you, my -dear Vega. The sacred crystal of the Sympats, the bunk of God alone knows what that's going to be destroyed by the Lounters in the very near future-or a long time in our past, whichever was tal." It was huge, lenticulate, all of fifty its center. It was supported on rough stone pillars, each twenty feet high. It shone with a cold, cold radiance of its own, like the light of a wan, old moon reflected from a smooth lev see. To the right of the clearing a fire was burning -and even its flower looked cold-and black not that was hanging over the fames.

Vega Frayne looked up. In that blue light her hair was dark, her ligs were black against the pallor of her face. She looked up, and she said. "The sky has "Yes," said Brent, "the sky has cleared. And it won't be long before

South Decknotion, just now, this opeer little satellite and, as you will notice, the crystal is tilted towards the south. Tell me. Red Setter, what do you remember of Corrylla?" Callaghan said nothing, but he remembered what he had read of the planetary system of Achernar. He remembered reading that the astellite of way, that 'over-exposure to its rays

raused a wasting away of the affected fimb or limbs . . . "Do you see what they're doing there, Red Setter 1" went on Brent, "Round the fire? They're heating the crystal-it's the same composition as this bor oneand they've malting it, and they'll placter it all round you and this carroty cat here notting it well in with their little.

six fingered hands . . . And the drug they're going to give you doesn't destroy segustion . . . But cheer up! Think of Grimshaw's delight! And think of the shock he'll get when my account comes in! That should cheer you up through the lang, lang years of bligg! But be'll "Here they come with the drug, now. You drink it, and you're like a clay figure. They pose you however they like. An artistic race, these Sympats. Watch Vegs, now. Hold here, you wen! And make the hastard watch!"

Callaghan was the shadowy, nightmare figures clustered about the garsaw one of them force her band beak, saw one of them force her band beak. The saw of the saw of the same saw, pack, held are now with one bland, forced pack, held are now with one bland, forced pack, held are now the one bland, forced pack, held are the same saw of the same with the other. She worst himp suddenly, Breat unlocked the cuffs from her wrists, there them down carebashy. Her my policy is darfe from her. She and tore all her clothing from her. She created, the fifther he light is of the firecretal, the fifther he light is the fire-

no statue, for Callaghan could feel the warmth of her, could smell the fragrance of her-yet utterly motionless. Brent pulled her to him, kissed her full on the line.

He sand, "I almost eavy you, Callaghan."
He arranged her limbs and hide in a

damned pity that I have to have you in to spod the picture!" THE Sympats approached Callighan with their pot of steaming, evilsmelling drug. Instinctively, forgetting that his logs were held. Callaghan kicked out. And his right less was free. the guard holding it had been too engrossed in watching Brent and Vega France to maintain a tight grip upon his prisoner. Encouraged, Callughan doubled over, wrenched from right to left-and was entirely free! He kicked again, giving at direction. It caught Brent on the shell of the law, and Brent began to fall, and manacled hands sought for and found

He twisted to out down the shorting

And then everything happened all at core. Somebody came remaining into the clearing. Thereit? he was screaming. the "These devils have turned on us! of They're killed all the men, and there's only Overbotts left, and he's shut himself in the shup?"

He says what was happening, awain his hister to cover Callaghan. Then one of the Syripat spears took him in the threat. Other spearman were faithful to the control of the state of the spears. The syripat serversed for a full two minutes. The Syripat chief approach Callaghan, helding out his hands to show that they were surply. He said something in his histing tongue, without for a reply. Callaghan to runned to the agirt, shock control of the call of the call

her maked thoulder. "What does he say?" he demanded.

Her voice came from very far away.
"He says that you are Brent's energy, that he will spare you herause you are Brent's enemy. But you must let him

"Tell him that I agree, but that he must spare you too."

He arranged her limbs and lady is a most appreyou can wanton, provocative pote and said, "A damned pity that I have to have join in to spoil the picture!"

It is a provinced by the property of the product of the worden would have liked a pair. But the worden is Brent's enemy too. You are to take

her, and go." "The drug," said Callaghan. "The drug. Tell him that we must have the antidote." If there is one, he thought Again the sibilant meetion and enswer; this time the chief turned to has orders to his people. One of them amproached with another of the little, spouted nots, handed it to Vern, said something to her in his language. She replied briefly, then lifted the years and drained it. For a while the stood there. motionless, and Callashan began to fear While he watched, one of the natives who had been striming Broat anproached, holding a little, metal key, With it he unlocked Callaghan's hands -

guards who were trying to pull him tuffs.

Suddenly the girl meaned and shud-

114 derest. Then she fell into Callaghan's arms, sobbine violently. He comforted herraschest be could all too conscious of the staring, curious eyes of the natives. He was aware that the chief was standing baside them, twittering urgently. The six impured hands of the Sympots drew them away from each other and, grasping them femly, preed them on to-

But Brent, thought Callaghan. He's human. I can't . . . I mustn't leave bim Then: But who not? He eringed unpleasently.

A HEAD of them appeared the bright A fights of the ship, the lights that shone on the crumpled bodies of Earthmen and Treggans alfice. There was the small of blood in the six the small of burned flesh and of gunpowder. Trestgams rose from beside their weaponssome the captured machine-guns and

blusters of the ship's people, some than own muzzle-loading cannon-to thatlenge the party. The challenge answered, they let the man and woman and their escort pers

without any opposition. All doors and ports were tight shut, Callaghan saw, but he honed that Overholts was on the look out. "Overbolts!" Callaghan abouted. "Overholtz!"

A Boor opened high in the metal side. "Is that you, Callaghan? Where's Brent?" "He't not coming back. Onen un!" "Gladly?! With no pilot I cannot get away from this accurred world?" Then:

But can I trust you?" "You'll have to. And we want you, too " -to get away from this Time." Overholtz opened the door at the head of the ramp. The girl ran up it, ex-

plained the situation to him briefly "And you'll have to let them in," she said. "We'll give them their decilish weapons?" "But we can't. We will change the course of history." "We won't. How can they recharge the blasters? How can they make fresh ammunition for the guns? Out of my way! I wont some elather?". And so the Treggans stripped Collector of all her armament and so, with Overholtz whimpering, "I cannot hold her for more than a few minutes," Callaghan took her up and away to the clean spaces between the stars. There was the witining of the Drive, then, and earefully timed rocket blasts to Over-

holts' orders, and then Trieves lay below them again-the Tregge of their own day and are. Callaghan threw the ship into a closed orbit around the elanet, then went to his room to sleep. But sleep was not yet to come. "What has hannened to us?" asked Vega Frayne, gently stroking his face. "What has happened? At one time my

teuch would have made your skin crawl not that I would have touched you." . "You've yot a mole on your left hin " sand Callaghan. "The little woman in Baker's crystal

has such a mole." "You mean. . . ?"

"We've been playing with Time," Calaghan said alowly, . "It's been a cycle, It all baserned once before except that Brent won out, not we-and the crystal, Baker's crystal, lay buried for centuries until found by some archaeclogist. It was too long, my dear, even

with you. So we hated each other. And hating each other as we did, a duplicatuen of that particular pass was just im-"But Belove's crystal?" "It must have ceased to exist." Cal-

But he was wrong.

At that moment, light years away, a gross, ugly man, his face conterted with grief and rage, was staring at a transnavent subove in which, carefully nosed per of Lost Arts, Incorporated, ...



THE OLD MAN sat on his steel and aned back against the blomed wall. He had

dipholistered the stool elegantly with a steed as such. The strands of a whip hare side because there didn't seem to brate he was supposed to be plaining the motifs between his own sides and her benefits hetwice his own sides and her benefit hetwice his own sides and her benefit hetwice his own sides when the farmehier stool, and recognized in the farmehier stool, and recognized in the farmehier stool was comfortable and the stool was commortable and t

STARTLING STORIES

stopped moving, and has head was noddrag. The yard was empty save for a few heat that pecked more inquisitively than hopefully in the dust, but there were sounds that told of others who had not the old man's leisure for sitests. From round the corner of the bouss came the eccasional monk of an empty better.

be old man's letture for siests. From round the corner of the bosts came the occasional pion's of an empty backet, as is hit the, whore, and its except on-the side of the well as it kinne up full. In the shack across the yard a dull possibility was a simple of the side of the side of the control of the side of the side of the latter of the side of the side of the latter of the side of the side of the latter of the side of the side of the process. The side of the side of the Presently from heroad the round, ma-

closing wall there exame another acount, slowly approaching. A rumbling and a ratilling, with an intermittent aquesting. The old man's ears were no longer sharp, and fed some minutes it fields to disturb him. Then he opened his eyes are considered to the patents of the conception of the count, and starling incredulously toward the gateway.

The sound draw closer, and a boy's bead showed above the wall. He prinned at the old man, an expression of excitement in his eyes. He did not call out, but moved a little faster until he came to the gata. There he turned into the yard, prought towing behind film a box

yare, preduct usering central rims a sysmounted on four wooden wheels. — The old man got, up suddenly from this step, altern in every line. He waved both arms at the boy as though it would be pash him back. The boy deopped. His, expression of gireful pride finded in section of gireful pride finded in the section of gireful pride finded in the section of gireful pride finded with which be disting film away so urgoally. While he will be section of the section of the litter of the little gireful price and the section of the section of the section of the section of the little gireful price to the section of the section of the little gireful price to the section of the section of the little gireful price to the section of the section of the little gireful price to the section of the section of the little gireful price to the section of the section of the section of the little gireful price to the section of the section of the section of the little gireful price the section of the little gireful price the section of the section o

titud to shoe him off with one band as he placed the other on his own lips, and started to walk towirels him. Reinstantly and bewideredly the boy terraed, but too late. The possibility he the shad stopped. A middle-gread woman appeared in the doesway. Her menth was open to eall, but the words dod not come. Her jaw dropped slackly, her year seemed to bulge, then the crossed

herself, and screamed. . . .

THE SOUND split the afternoom person Behalt the house the bucket fall with a clatter, and a young woman's head aboved muont the corper. Hercycs widened. She crammed the back recommended by the comment of the person with the other. A young man appeared in the staked doorway, and stood there transitional, Another you came pathing out of the house with a set ittle gift behind her; She stopped as 'diddenily as if and had her; She stopped as 'diddenily as if are had been been seen as the person of the stake of the 'stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the 'stake of the stake of the 'stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the 'stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the 'stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the 'stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the 'stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the stake of the 'stake of the stake of the

The box stood quite atill with all their yes upon him. His hewilderment began to give way to fright at the expression to him to the looked from one hortities the looked from one hortities of the same than the same than the old many. What he saw there executed to reasons him a little—or to frighten him less. He swallsowd. Team were not far sawy as he spol what are not far to make the matter? What are far if the second of his voice had read at the second of his voice had re-

leased a spell the middle-aged woman came back to life. She reached for a lay fork which learned against the sharekwall. Raising its peints towards theboy site wallood abovly in between himsand the gato. In a hard voice she said: "Go to. Get in the sheet," "Sext. Mn—" the boy began. "Don't won dare call me that now."

she told him.

In the tense lines of her face the boy could see something that was almost barred. His own face screwed up, and he began to cry.

"Go on," she repeated harshly. "Get is there!"

The boy backed away, a prejure of beerlidered misery. Then, and didnity, he turned and run into the shed. She shalt the door on ham, and fusition it with a reg. She boked recurd at the rest as young man withdrew eitherly into the gloon of the stable. The two young was very away taking the little girl woman eracy than a stable of the stable. The two youngs was cryet away taking the little girl woman cryet away taking the little girl.

#### ENTERTAINING



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DIN FOR ALL THE PARTY

VOUR WITS By JULES LEOPOLD

Problems General and Onlyne Name in a PODET AD LERDADY PAIN

with them. The promen and the old were were left alone. Neither of them spoke. The old man

stood meticuless, regarding the box where it stood on its wheels. The woman suddenly put her hands up to her face. She made little meaning poises as she swayed, and the tears came trickling out between her fingers. The old man

turned. His fore was devoid of all expression. Presently she recovered herself a little "I never would have believed it. My own little David!" she said. "If you'd not arreamed, nobody need have known," said the old man,

His words took some seconds to sink n. When they did, her expression hard-

"Did you show him how?" she asked,

"I'm old, but I'm not crazy," he told her. "And I'm fond of Davie," he added "You're wicked, though. That was a

wieked thing you just said." "It was true." "I'm a god-fearing woman. I'll not have evil in my house whatever share

- at comes in. And when I see it. I know The old man drew breath for a reply

but sheeked it. He shook his head. He turned, and went back to his stool, look ing, somehow, older than before HERE was a tan on the door. A whitnered "Sh!" For a moment

Davie saw a square of night sky with a dark shape against it. Then the door closed again." "You had your supper, Davie?" a voice asked "No. Gran. Nobody's been in."

The old man grunted. "Thought not. Scared of you all of 'end, Here, take this. Cold chicken, it is."

Davie's hand sought and found the other held out to him. He gnawed on a leg while the old man moved around in the dark assertions for somewhere to alt. He found it, and let himself down (There poor)

STARTLING STORIES tions. They'll sak you what the Devil with a sich. looked like when he came to you, and "This is a bad business. Davie, boy-Ther've sent for the priest. He'll be what he offered to mye you if you'd use the Wheel's

"But I don't understand, Gran: Why "But there wasn't any Devil, Gran." do they all act like I've done agmething "That den't matter If they think wrong 1\* there was, then somer or later you'll be telling them there was, and just how he

"Oh. Davie!" sand his evandfather, re-

"Honest, I don't know. Gran." "Come now, Davie. Every Sunday you so to church, and every time you go,

you pray. What do you pray?" The how emblied a neaver. After a 'few moments the old man stopped him. "There," he said. "That last bit."

"Preserve us from the Wheel'?" Dayle reneated, wonderingly "What is the Wheel, Gran? It must be simething terrible had. I know, 'our when I ask them they just say it's wicked, and not to talk of it. But they don't say what it

The old man paused before he replied then be said: "That hox you got out there. Who

told you to fix it that way?" "Why, nobody, Gran. I just reckened it'd move easier that way. It does, too," "Listen Davie. Those things you get

on the side of it—they're Wheels' It was sometime before the boy's voice came back out of the darkness. When it

did. it sounded brwildered. . . "What, these round bits of wood? But they can't be, Gran. That's all they are. just round bits of wood. But the Wheel -that's something awful, terrible something everybody's hely scared of."

"All the same, that's what they are," The old man ruminated awhite, "I'll tell you what's going to happen tomorrow. Davie. In the morning the priest will come here and see your box. It'll still be there because nobody dares touch it. a prayer just to make it aufe to bradle. Then they'll take it into the feld and make a fire under it, and they'll stand round singing hymns while it burns.

looked when you saw him. They got warra. . . . Now what you out to do is not inneent. You got to say you found that

box rust the way it is now. You didn't know what it was, but you just brought it slong on account of it would make good firewood. That's your story, and you gotta stick to it. If you stock to it no matter what they do, maybe you'll get through okay."

"But, Gran, what is there that's so had about the Wheel ! I just can't understand." The old man passed more lengthily

than before. . . . WELL, it's a long story, Davieand it all began a long lone

while ago. Seems like in those days everybody was happy and good and suchlike. They one day the Devil came slong and met a man and told him that he could give him something to make him as strong as a bundred men, and make him run faster than the wind, and fly higher than the hinds. Well the man said that'd be mighty fine, and what did the Devil want for it? And the Devil said he defa't want a thing-not just

then. And so he gave the man the "By and by, after the man had played around with the Wheel awhile he found out a whole lot of things about it; how it would make other Wheels, and still more Wheels, and do all the things the Devil had said, with a whole bean more."

"What st'd fly, and everything?" and "Sure. It did all those things. And

it began to kill meetle ton-one way "Then they'll come back, and take you and another. Folks not more and more down to the village, and our year once. Wheels together the way the Devil told  them, and they found they could do a whole lot burger things, and kill more prople, too. And they couldn't atop using the Wheel now on account of they would, have starved if they had.
 "Well that was just what the Devil

wanted. He'd got 'em cinched, you see-Pretty near everything in the world was depending on Wheels, and things, got worse and worse, and the côd Devil just lay back and laughed to see what his Wheel was doing. Then things got terribble had I dou't know quite the way it happened, but things got so terribly worse there want's exacted anythey

left alive, only just a few, like it had here after the Flood. And they were nearly finished."
"And all that was on account of the Wheel?"
"Uh-huh. Leastways, & couldn't have hatcomed without it. Still. somewars

they made out. They built shacks and planted corn, and by and by the Devil met a man, and started talking about his Wheel again. Now this man was very old and very wise and véry godfaaring, so he said to the Devil! 'No. You so right back to Bell' and then

about the Devil and his Wirel, and got em all plants beared.
"But the old Devil door give up that any. He's might tricky, too. There's any. He's might tricky, too. There's corns out to be pretty satisfy a Wassismaphe Her collect, or servers, or he, he keeps that there is middle. Yes, he keeps that there is middle is not be to the pretty of the trick of the priest comes and they burn the priest comes and they burn and to step his missing any ways.

Wheels, and to discourage any other fells, they burn him, too."
"They behave him?" stammered the boy.
"That's what they do. So you see why

"That wouldn't be no good, Davie.
They're all scared of the Whoel, and g when min are scared they get atgry d, and crost. No, you getta keep to it."

The boy thought for some moments, then he said: "What about Ma? She'll know. I had that box off her yesterday. Does it matter?"

The old man grunted. He said, heavily:

"Yes, it does matter. Women do a lot of protending to be scared, but once they

of pretending to be scared, but once they do scare, they scare more herribly than men. And you Ma's dead scared." THERE was a long silence in the darkness of the shed. When the did mon

spoke again, it was in a calm, quiet voice: "Listen, Davie, lad. I'm going to tell you something. And you're going to keep

it to yeurself, not tell a soul till maybe you're an old man like me?"
"Sure, Gran, if you say,"
"I'm telin' you because you found out about the Wbeel for yourself. There'll

always he boxs like yow who do. There've opt to he. You can't kill as idea the way they try is. You can keep if down way they try is. You can keep if down who have they to you've you to understand is that the Wheel's soil eril. Never mind a what the sourced mee all tell you. No it it that way. Thunk about that, Davie bey. One day they'll start to use the Wheel again. I begul it would be in my they are they will be the come of the come of the started ones; be one of the come of the started ones; be one of the come that's pecing to show 'em how to now it

y, the Wheel—it's fear that's evil, Davie.
Remember that."

He stirred in the darkness. His feet
rlumped on the hard earth fleor.

"Reckon it's time I was getting along Where are you, key?" His groping hand found Davie's shoul-

der, and then rested a moment on his head.
"God bless you, Davie, And don't worry any more. It's goin' to be all right. You trust-me?" "Yes, Gran."

"Then you go to sleep. There's some hay in the corner, there." ly again. Then the sound of the old men's feet shuffed across the yard into

W/HEN the priest arrived he found a horronstricken knot of neonle collected in the yard. They were gazing at an old man who worked away with a mallet and pegs on a wooden box. The

priest stood, scandalized, "Stop!" he cried. "In the name of

The old man turned his head towards him. There was a grin of crafty senility

"Yesterday," he said, "I was a fool, I only made four wheels. Today I am a wise man\_I am making two more

wheels so that it will run half as easily again..." They hught the box, as he had said they would. Then they took him away. In the afternoon z small boy whom everyone had forgotten turned his even

the direction of the village, and hid his face in his hands . -"I'll remember, Gran, I'll remember, It's only fear that's exil." he said, and his voice choked in his tears.



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ON SALE -- 25: AT ALL STANDS



## How Green Was My Martian By MACK REYNOLDS

All leri seonted to do sees open a kofix stand on Terro for visiting Martians-and when opportunity knocked he proved more than ready

NCE there was a young lost named Jeri, who thought Mars was a kert of a place to live. He meelf to Terra things wouldn't be half Jeri was bot for adventure and

didn't figure he was ready as yet to nick the brim mader and keep of his choice. They had their charms for him, of Anyway, when he was about five decals of age he left home and hopped a freight to Terra. When he arrived a romance. When I say romance I don't snarefull nabbed him and he spent the mean he was inordinately fepd of Marnext sixty days in the jug. tions of the various other sexes. Ice

All this is only a build-up to one of plete unknown to Jeri. He had attended the most remarkable careers Hollywood

has ever seen. Jeri might have landed at New Brook lyn, Casabianes, or even Mukden, but he which made all the difference in the world. Originally he had intended to open a hot knfis stand for Martine

tourists on Torra but it was subt as well it didn't work cut that way. There

aren't many Martian tourists on Terrs -and besides; he would have had a leret of a time finding kafig. A S IT was he emerged from the Neuve Los Angeles cooler to be met by an

emissary from the Interplanetary Phonovision Studios, who was dressed in a slaber-hair wraparound coat with a Versian chameleon scarf about his This character, who happened to be the third assistant to J. B. Sydney's an-

sistant's assistant, breached a lone sigh of relief when he saw Jeri. "Holy sumping sloors," he said. "Where've you been?"-Jeri indicated with his third thumb the Neuve Los Angeles jug and whistled.

"In there and it's a kert of a place to be. Arming other things it smells like a The assistant-six-removed-from-the-

producer was aghast. "What did the makerous therew you in there for? No wonder I couldn't locate you. Something about immigration Iswa?"

Jeri shrilled, "It's a long story-but uninteresting. It seems that..." "Some other tune," the emissary said hurriedly. "I've got to get you to the

studio. They've been holdfor up an important story conference ufftil you ar-Juri blinked an eye-the ton one-at

him. "You certainly work fast here." He was hurried into a reciteteab and sipped to the studios before he hardly

wire produced on Terra for Martian consumention and had been hearthdayed at the strangeness of the make-believe from

the sister planet. That had been immediately before the banning of the The story had dealt with a romance

between a mador and a koor, without the consent of a brim and even without the participation of a lost, Broadmindedness can be stretched too far-there is such a thing as common decency. Phonovision wires were barred from Mara, quite understandably to Jeri, being a lost himself and an average upright one

at that. At any rate Jeri was hustled through a down guarded gates and several offices that grew in luxuriouspess as he progressed. He didn't have time to find

out what was going on since his guide who starts at the bottom of an industry and energetically works his way in all directions without ever getting anywhere. He had no time just then for explanations. They finally wound up in a room

that reminded Jeri vaguely of a Mercurian Rathakeller but it had been decorated by a Vennsian Rouncer who probably had his tongues in his cheeks as he Jeri's guide waved a hand impressively, introducing the young Martian

to the three high-pressure-looking Terrans who sat there, obviously awaiting "Mr. J. B. Sydney, President of Interplanetary-Mr. Melbourns, producer-Mr. Darwin, our are director. May I introduce our new technical advisor from Mara, er . . . " He turned back to Jeri

englocatically. "What was your name again?" "Just call me Jorn" feet shrilled, wan, dering vagnely what the deal was

"Er-exactly. The Son Jeri, contle-Of course the industry wasn't a com-

Now you don't rate the title Sor on

Mars unless you're pretty big apples and a young lost like Jeri just un't in there. He began to protest the honor but on second thought he figured what

the kert. If they wanted to flatter him what had he to lose? Nothing, considerone that he had only about my hourcredita to his name

ball man, bounced up from his tremen-Jers, who politely spit in it, afterwards noting that the phonovision head had either been raised with extremely poor manners or had had something else in mind rather than the standard Martian

greeting. J. B. took out a snowy handkerchief and wiped his palm carefully However Jeri did note that he at least

little left hand roughly over his face and

chins until the color went away, mumbling: "Give me strength, One-twothree-four . . ." TNINALLY he took a deep breath and got back to the point. "Twe heard a

good deal about your work in the Martian theater. Glad to have you with us Sor Jeri." He cleared his throat importantly. "With your aid undoubtedly we'll be able to mores the Martian market again."

Jeri had been brought un as well as any loct on Mars. His brim, mador, koor and lost were as good narents as could have been found in the Solar System. He figured courtery always said off, so he whistled, "I'll do what. I can to belp," Inwardly, he wondered how J. B. Sydney had known about his

work in the Martian theater, where he fore deciding to make his way to Terra "Excellent," said J. B., rubbing hisplump hands together. "Now then, what we're trying to accomplish here is a rough synopers for our first Martian nicture in ten years. As I see it the story, is about a Terran missionary for

goes to Mars. I see Groucho Barrymore for the missionary. What'd'va think, "Ideal casting, J. B.," said Mr. Melurne, enthusiastically "He'll om the award with that part. J. B.," Mr. Darwin gushed. They all looked at Jeri, who didn't

HOW GREEN WAS MY MARTIAN

"Good," said J. B. beaming at them. "Now, how's this? I'm just playing with words, you understand, just snithall-

ing, and I want your benet-to-Wodo epinions. You all know I can't shide ves-men around me." There was a marmer of indignation at the very thought. Jeri didn't say any-

J. B. went on. "I picture this missionery finding a ship-wrecked Terran The wire magnate rubbed his plump - girl who's never seen a man before She's been raised by a small Martian tribe in the south sees. She runs around

in a Martian surong. How does it sound so far. boys?" "Where are the Martian south sear, J. B. ?" asked Mr. Melbourne hesitantly. "I didn't know there were any small Martian tribes," murmured Mr. Darwin

J. B. glowered at them, "Don't I get anything but obstruction and argument from you envo? He you like it or not?"

"So far it sounds colossal," and Mr. "It oughts con the award," Mr. Dar-

Jeri kept his zerto shut. J. R. had roved up and down the room,

working his ideas over verbally and earning the plaudits of his assistants, the producer shot a clance at his wrist chronomo, anorted and said, "Well, boys, that's about it for a rough synomis. What'd'ya think?" He rubbed his plump hands together and beamed.

"Stupendous possibilities, J. B.," said Mr. Darwin, "We'll get right to work on the treatment." Mr. Melhourne nedded

his anthosiastic agreement the Re-Formed Agnostic Church who J. R. looked at Jeel, "Fh. Sor Jeel,

STARTLING STORIES. what do you think of the story rough? shaking hands with members of several Now I want it straight-anybody can Terran churches and everybody saving tell you I'm one man that just can't that after all we all worship the same stand yee men around. Give me your deity no matter what name different honest opinion." races mucht give him." Jeri hopped down to the floor and Jeri blinked his eyes, one at a time.

made ready to leave. "I'm sorry, centle-"Which delty were you referring to?" men." he shrilled, "Nothing that's been he whistled, puzzled, "We've got fortysaid here this afternoon makes sense to three on Mars. It'll be forty-four in ... me. Leave me out. I think I'll just com another decal." He thought it over for a a het kafiz stand somewhere for the mement. "Unless, of course, they drown Marting formsta"

Marki and Drin That'd make it forty. They stared at him, "A genius!" J. B. "Goodbye," whistled Jeri and started "Marki and Ikio, two of our Gods."

Jers shrilled "There's been talk about "Walt," said J. R. hurriedly, "Please it for some time. We always drown our -no temperament. All I seet is tempera-Gods when we get tired of them.... ment. We can talk contract later-maymakes room for more, for one thing,

be we can see our way to doubling your salary. For now, what would you sugwe always say. Sometimes we drown the gest? Just a rough, of course-just toos whole lot and start out fresh." it around." J. B. Sydney closed his eyes as if in Jeri paused and considered. "Whynain. We better leave out the religious not make it a muselonary from the angle," be said finally. He snapped

Eighteenth Day Adventists who comes plump fingers, as though he'd had a to Terra. He discovers a brim, a koor sudden inspiration, "How about making and fmally, on a South Sea Island, a him a soldier of fortune who comes magor. It all winds up with them getting down to join the Foreign Legion or somethine?" married and returning to Mars after

converting half of Terra by their ain-"You mean, to fight in wars?" Jeri cerity " whistled. "I don't think that'd so on "Hmmm," Mr. Melbourne said, "I'm Mura. We don't fight work one more on

Mare." afraid that conversion angle wouldn't go too well with some 'elements here on J. B.'s eyebrows shot-up, "No wars?" Terra." His voice held shocked incredulity. "It'd go fine on Mars," Jers shrilled, Jeri explained briefly. "We found out

"Would either a brim, keer or mader a long time ago that those countries that look good in a sareng?" Darwin in jested stayed out of the most wars were the thoughtfully.

"On Mars we aren't interested in "You mean like Sweden and Switzersarungs, whatever they are." whistled. "As more and more of the Martian na-

- The three Terrans stared at him intions came to that conclusion, there credulously for a long moment, "You were here and less were. We haven't had sure?" J. B. asked finally. any for a thousand decals," "Positive," whistled Jeri, "What a funtantic way of looking at

things," J. B. was getting desperate. "Hear in kert are we oning to make phonovision wires when there aren't sexes and forty-four Gods?"

J. B. SCRATCHED his second chile thoughtfully. "Instead of the any ways but where you do have four

Terra, we could just wind it up with him

"Forty-two when we drown like and Mark!," Jeri corrected helpfully. Mr. Darwin came to his feet soddenly, inspiration on his face. "Crime" he paculated. "How about a crime wire, I. B.7 We could do a murder mystery." "What's marker? Jeri shrilled.

HOW GREEN WAS MY MARTIAN

J. B. was entranced with the rica and had already accepted if for his own. His mind was occupied with the possibilities and he haswored Jeri in a detached voloe. "Where one character kills another one."
"On," Jery whistled. "Of course that's only allowed right after mature assess."

There was a programt silence. Finally Mr. Melbourne ventured. "How was that?"
"On Mars jou're only allowed to kill each other right after mating reason," Jeri explained patiently, his tone indicating that only a chill would need to

be told that. "Protects the rate," he added as a clincher.

J. B. rin his hard desperately over his second chia. "Suppose—suppose in the ware we had one of your—ers—brins kill a—say a mader out of resonor?" He looked at Jeri almost pleadingly. Jeri showed militations of going harty, "After all," he adrilled, "War Your Late View was banned on Mars.

you'll recall. Besides, who ever heard of a brink alling a mador?" He scored of a brink alling a mador?" He scored of a brink alling a mador?" He scored of a brink alling a mador? He scored of a brink all bores."

J. B. Sydney threw his hands up into the air. "All right! I leave at all to you. I give up!" He strode over to Juri dramatically. "It's all in your hands, old were. I trust was to take hery. School."

Jeri spit into his palm politicly.

A FTER J. B. had dashed from the room Jeri syed the others uncomprehendingly. "What does he mean!" he whistled.

Melbourne explained. "We all up to you now, See Jeri. He wants you to make the wine for Martin referens. He's.

given you carte blanche."

Darwin added fawmingty, "Old J. Br. is getting fed up with these interplanetary wires, Sor Jeri. If you spake a hit of this one he might turn over preduction for Nercury, Venus, Saturn and Jupiter to you as well."

The third accitant to J. B. Sydney's assistant's assistant such his head in

the door. "Say," he said breathlessty, "there's a Martian out here who says his same is Sor Wari. Says he has an appointment with J. B. in regard to making the new Martian wires."

Jeri was catching on to the ways of Bellywood fast, "But' bother J. B. with it," he whotsted. "The taking over with it," he whotsted. "In taking over

the Martian predictions, Just throw the maken cat. He's probably some space burn.

J. B.'s assistant, six removed, withdrew his head and Jeri turned back to the others. "Now, then," he shrilled, "let's get be work."

R was two decals inter and Jeri was,

It was two decale later and Jert was, bouncing back; and forth on his heels, puffling in satisfaction on a Mercurian kepp whith he held elenched tightly in his zerte. He was wearing a alsher-hair wrigarcund cost and about his neckwas. The Isuatast colored Venssian channelous near? were seen on Mars. Bochemicolous near? were seen on Mars. Bopowered lightly associated the Martian size. Med through the Martian sizes. Med through the Martian

theatre.

J. B. Sydney, who had recketed up from Terra to be at this grand premiere, was saying to him, admiration and even a certain himsbleness in his voce, "I don't see how you do it, See Jeri. This is the territ straight smeach hit."

Darwin was there too. He runded.

"Besides, you don't even use Martian soties. They're all Terrans and the stow books just about the same as any other Earth wire—except, of course, you did not be Martian veices and the littles and credits are all in your own language.

"Come on, break down, Ser Jeri."

J. B. pleaded. "What's the secret of your success?"

tapped the ash off its end. "It's simple, boys," he, whirtled. "Do you happen to know the name of this wire?" They shook their heads, "Can't say as I do," J. B. confessed. "It's all in .

Martian, of course," "Translated "it's Risadic Gets the Nesc Bleed," Jeri shrilled in satisfaction. "The last wire I made was Andy"

Hardu Goes to Sing Sina." The two Terrana frowned, "I don't get it." Mr. Darwin confessed. "I still don't see why such pictures are hits."

Don't you understand? I just make a film that shows a typical day in the life. of a typical Terran family. Up here on Mara it goes for comedy, for farce-or -you know, burleame." He gestured to the crowds of brima

the theetre. "They know it's otterly J. B. Sydney could recognize genies

when he saw it. He held out his hand Jeri was always courteens

## (Continued from page 2)

the story to let to lenow that there would have here dire consenuence is the entire kahondis of worlds if the masses of Eligeth and Mark had below your office is awfully high up )

You arm't the only one who burn-founted his story. The experienced, prairie John D. Miscin what was practically a wid-score. It iggs frustrating to believe that there should be more to a stary und, set, know there's not, I don't mean the feeting of surrow that a stary is ended. max. R's fragmented But you did have some good steries in this Supposedure inter, Train-Way To Mara," "Yes, Sir," and "The Last Stary." The latter was

little off trail thangs you come up with occasionpre-writers. Keep paint all you can me al you find that cobody suportant dangeres on their see I think most for will lose our I sent remain on whi hee ver!

I sent remain on what wede "Tale Way
To Mary" and "Yes, Sat" fairly good and "The
Mangarade On Disarropes" research-sent it was, and partly because I've got to close. P.S. Han Murray Lennier gape full-time t the glicke? I bester the anything by him if TWS, SSS, or FSQ meet "Placet O! Small Meet". He tood to be one of my, byvorne author

and I was very glad that he was so profile. ?

don't filled you stop being THAT prolife over cools. What happened? You didn't start places Hill rejection steps . . ! Did you say you were in the Novy? And parking up your nose at level, provocative workban' Shoke of Farment, Berney will war, what do you think of the new year covers? The ores without any wopoer, lewd,

#### COMPLETE WITH DIALECT by Willie Miller. life when he (she, it) should be taking per in

had not writing to inverte circo. Yes, you Dre mearing! (Is measure Marala-Ed) Jist bregit the Sept of today and have few closes "inflathbias" about the cover say However, I slowers the your covers And for that we should have no gor's mether it on't are turnife and these what create .

You have a reed 'inte, 5.M. I blee at I blee at
Oh white Mass (1) Bracket for STARMEN OF LLYRDIS-I'm beway from some askles

us realing The a couple penguera STAR-

MEN OF LLYRDIS was mirrie. So you know what? We got another terrific deal comMargaret St. Clair Get some Respect for your back, etc., you'll be bowing free year toxesib . CLOUDY FUSTIAN

## by 4. Sprogue, De Como

Dray Saw- Be the Coles and their Lypenison Market (55 Sept. St p. 180) the proper ar-sects agold have been; "No, hape you read the original Lysenkous sources effect?" (Un-less the man can vend fluxuum be condult base; the best he could do would be a translation, shstract, or paraphrase) Thou: "Well have you Western practicies: Morgao, Debahassky, Hus-ley, etc. 1 have read translations of Lephiston specifies and as far as one can tell from his user discretifed chewiere. He made his repu-- telial by introducing to Dunian agreemen the neattive of vermalientum recented by an American short 98 years ngo. And why get indigenal short "allenting American liberals?" The Communion also is not objective truth but political sower. set to concluse Assenting khorals but to experpliante them, so the more they revert their

solonce and AM their scientists, the better for This is an argument that started before - our firm, so we don't intred to get our feet wet by lossing is unimited. We can't resist the terretaines to choose sides to some extenthoter than source furdingly such thur reasoning and methods. And we agree that final sentence. You can't work with the horn because they'll talerate you only so love as (and if you want a definition, let's say a liberal is sufficiented in objective truth as close as are such three can be detected) the distortion of

truth to precured and in malerable AND ANOTHER by Dr. John D. Clark Charl Chemest, March Apr Anciest Test See

My Dear Sam: My heart in Needley and sey blood both about the troubles of Les and Es Coic, who find difficulty in relating the regarders of a Marcair advector of the theories of Lyundon They complain that they were unable to array when said advocate agood, "What do you know about the work that Lysenico has

THE ETHER VHIRATES ing an aget comb...VIII.CAN'S DOLLS by "Bave you?" But, somehow, the Messers Color reports. They are available, in translation, jo-

level, and there is nothing in the world to provide the Coles brothers from conding thest-of they For I, for my san, have cost them And they are, house to God, the Iranicot reports that I

have ever read on any program of experimental successible and sloppy experiments with had ernorthis that I have ever lad the mitigature to meet. I swear that if a P-1 junior chemist pre-served me with a pob like that I would not only fee has but would bed him in sit is energing the others. I've been in the chempiny business for twenty fire years, and I should know the ghest of Laversier, that week of Laversko s is not only sloppy but disherent. To these who do security the receives the receivery training, they read it that the cases point is not the accuracy or lack is an official attentific (sig) theory in the USSR,

stake it were, the theory was made official by non-occupies, for publish reasons, on the as-sumption that separative facts until agree with political theory. That, in the nebation of science facts come first-ward if they disagree with a theory, it's tough on the latter. The notice of the USSE is applying dogree to ocione is a cuture to the aboletic barbariers of the middle ures, when Gallieo was tried for stilling that of Knet who insisted that philisophy proved dist only seven platets could colle, and that a starch for some would be futile. The sticket of butcherine the facts to make them fit the theories In short-there to cool can be no require-

And finally. I am couple to one any planchie reason why Les and Es Coles should bloom the ruest - Dennilly, New Jersey

Arren. And if you can take the long, long yew, there is nothing much to worry about re totabianamism, for it owners the scode of its own destruction within it, as it murders the how brains and raterus. The only trouble is being massed, warped, torraice, discorted or mardered it may be that the commates are parks on one three-expelve and to take a stand

#### EENIE-MEENIE

Dear Sale. The September rope of SS was a night for safe eyes. For name mempheable STARTLING STORRS.

Cromow all the a 5 mags down been been been been per me.

many tree to three words also. A producered
when beginning to me as the deprings

Language of the control of the per second of the control of the control

lever pridabled these John D. Mar Doughly, WINN OF THE DEXAMILES. It assessed I could detect a isserting equival are about it plought seed to be been described to the seed of the best described to the seed to the could be seed to the seed of the

need by one Carlos called the proof waters as few store shalled of the proofs waters.

York, sector in these started up a redd controvers. However, I wouldn't up all feet as ever-the-freeze, by one of the process, of them yet, if line, with Striker. That is alless, just Gabien would not a set of the yet of the process, in the process, as in the process of the proc

to maintan his has collection and in "Austrian Science Factory Society". Solver Ministers across portionally after a strong up a let of again a now personally noticed as a let of again a now personally noticed, and the providing density generally noticed as the providing density generally assume the position of the Machows III the disapposated A letter by one J L Xwitner consisted a good sourcecolor. If delt, not one good reasons personated as the providing of the providing and the providing a

Or even combining to form a mentilely Headabout Stay appears of your new cethod of retire the factors Glad to not "Quantity" the most homorous "size live over rend, in the appear therefore — 2000 Su Peters, Lower, Col.

#### of TWS. And for spother, and more literary conscient on Chade June, we below. PSIANTIFIC STUFF by Das Machard

by Das Micked 

Mi Deer Ms Merwen. Please challent as greener in people long. Fin. a syncaron-yeother (16 yrs) and long, rick swift a git. Join bed yez Sept, sith of 35 and end the half of the state of the swift and the latter like the leveyode from Marian Energybody nose that in the swift a 'st.'

ENVISORY SOUT (2014) House some spers, were a serious from the beauting the second to the period of the second to the second to

Duer Same Von 'den't year ney heat-blast, you don't heat with the 'per of all. You go will be a seen of all you don't have been seen of all you are possible of the 'per selection't for the 'threshed 53'. Genghia blast of the 'per selection's produced for the 'perseader 53'. Genghia was been selected for the 'perseader serviced grandens 'llaw led the 'persead' arrange in the 'perseader's blast of the 'perseader's produced serviced to the 'perseader's blast of the 'perseader's blast

contain a visit of the Table of Table o

respect version from the relinations of the denter. You did, as I is sure, two year restinct versions of the least two year restinct versions are restincted to the returned of the results of the result

Diff. you mally ment it when you said that a nagazine of the type suggested by the Color would be not you maring in a wide? I had facult bears if you then that — 120 K £204 34.

Chowing. Can you then the — 120 K £204 34.

P.S. Why don't you suggest to Fellow-tack-righy of connect—that he holded-dareer has been

What's so reprehensible, about mallituating that a story abouth be a story, not a love tant? In any writing person these are always too kinds of writers: (1) the finds who store his story at my inconvertient point and proceeds to explain allthe past history, shouly alliens, beautest all-

the past issuery, mostly elliums, teaments refertions, labels, taxion and so and this character, these regions are the state of their complete washfulses, forwise resisterants and opening on world wishins, concur pession and the Dedger's channel of waxing the pensas. While this type is trayed loose on a science story the routh is exactly high the tost book written by a professor in a small college which would sell exactly three coppes were at your

## force after all.

likel then.

by Francy H Mars.

Francy H Mars.

See H 1 Product 31 Proce the respective for the Product of the Process of the See H 1 Process of the S

that up 17 was right up by alloy? I've read to be deady, and will probably do not "again, and the deady, and will probably do not "again, will be seen and the se

THE ETHER VIBRATES

HARDMARK

Of yet, not the least to be confused and

to a low. Vigil Finity's illustration for your story. House

could risk a consum best more Bit a women or more desirable—a versible decount gif as neutral 1. It but "but Peter Poulston kill of the The Water Print" of Seculiar in the best of the 15th that I have seen. The term of the best of the 15th Gains that and for this time—nothing controvenum Just a particularly good mass.— R.F.D. No. 1, West Zowensof, March

This name afocusind foco Merwon JF, is without a doubt Sim Merwin JF. We know that's a lood off your send And be is not disendeded, we can votel for that. He is, no case three is asptody left when hand hend, now a full time free-lance satisfac, lawing teleporal hemself and of sheep speciests to

## BATTLE HIM OF THE REPUBLIC

Ethergrams Billion: Just rend HOUSE OF MANY WORLDS in September, 1885, image It is very good-spec who, well presented Surprise todays was tops. Know it test comage to prick the story in view of the lows interest, but must congratishe you so having the received commen. Know you for the state of the little of the lows interest, but must congrate Know you for Tall 200.

Ave, S.W., Washington 4, D.C.

Ob, we've got courige all right, We've got courage we haven't even used yet. Jasz so

## long as we're sare this is Assertes THE ETHER EXCHANGES by Karl Klendike Deer Sir: Sare slid to write you for this Sire

tous Wang to all you would I whole of the house wife in SS THE DARK TOWNS was used to the property of the prop

Sure thing, Karl.

#### LOST AND FOUND by 8. H. Stringhem

y & H. Stringborn

Description: I have been confirm your ma-

STARTLING STORIES with cute a few good stores. This is my-first letter to a magnation. Incidentally I have a favor mentary point to not more obvious as a supposedly to air There was a past input of your augistics. carried reason I feel it is time to state that

using PORGOTTEN WORLD. The must char-ager's name was Land Carlin, I had a copy of

The Ineae you want is THRILLING WON-DER STORIES for Winter, 1996, and 1M be address on the letter. But you didn't, so nobods's going to be able to send you arrefving

#### until you write in sonic and aree your address. OLD BUBBLE-BATH MORSE by fill Morse

As I said over before, time of the types of STF that I really easy reading to that depending upon a revotertous door to their and/or space. Sowho offer on this month not one but no apparently , writers, both of the stones and the letters, have Jodnieg by the style, this is your own worknot some one else using one of the staff maries

At least, it bears several of the imports of the Sacs Merwis Jr, by which a rotan a tendency to conveyence, a habit of exampless in choice of words and a rambbeg, day to day story that absorboy gets across better than staff which is forbid?) but was becoming to wender how you that! She came from another world altographerthat was the orde evolutation after all

Jack Vante, I see, is having woman trouble Let Girds explain to hire, how to take care of that May I merer live to are the day when that tale comes true! Can you stragger yourself work, our for Matrida Glota? Alt, 6vill, there is still a H. S. Fyle had such a nest idea that I had so

44. Owce the point street home, I set back and m words of not more than four letters. No accomplete for different arrange of houses, in these ? For the rest, MacDonald is augrocomately freesome and Samalman makes a fact try at a fired

for much the name respons, intend to stay. If you can restrain your refered bystacies. I'll sugirio. scor's name use Laied Carlis, I had a copy on: On restrict your requirement, it is made one but I loss to and desire greatly. If your stories were bettering in the minute, we will be the company of the company of the contract of the chapters groupout of calculations and deductions. As for fluridance, I say: Bradlery, Brackett, St. Chie., Handbox. let alone two-bits? And I felt a uty of awarerecet at the tendirations of the agts prooffender sentence. "enter mature, and added to such an Where do they get that "me are more meters than you" stuff? I must edget that your

Israwell heaged Color of fice on their heads, and no doubt they will buy this issue to see what you say Incidentally, I began reading SS and TWS web work the stillage of newcondry that free have now. The average person looks upon any so seedligence (and past about scotteng did, too, o'll the list three years, when I have had a regular diet of STP. It has been impressed upon me by solid weight of evidence that the

but mere possession of such a degree does not presuppose the ability to employ the knowledge it requires for is to a guarante of superior veloced almost sub- a location before the ability of ngt rea but because when they distance I find ever I less to this confounded typewriter (which

point Keep it up, please. You have always rated "A" for effect, it can in freal result. Not you at Nederton I have - W. E. S. (N.A.D.

Your own Vibrating lither holds the site than peers, is no longer pulp fiction, judged by the suras considerations as other types of pulp And that is important. It may be immediate of what the Cells are ordering an I this we must get as far all pointle fines the Falsh Garden calcoloid of writing to show that all is not just and calcoloid control of the calc

Deeth get no wrong an the "housine" angle. We don't man serpoist. But every across receive the We don't man serpoist. But every across receive of which has some herd of institute, or measure, or what have you "The either association have acritism in it therefore the association has a series of the series as the size of institute of the size of institute of the size of institute of words for early filler to be care it is not do word word word of the size of the size of people we might like to be. And it counted wormings and peates with profest and wows work associations of the size of the

#### THIS HUNGRY WORLD by R. L. Fornewarth

Ye Edde Let on settle the SMILODON or BUSMILUS deal core and for all. The inferpoul heavy was not a "age" not did it has not consist notions of all environment carter dedented notions of all environments carter decompanies of all environments of the controllegation, and the controllegation of the properties of the controllegation of the land in great, great (all inferious) great children, SMILDIDON, of the lab Priminents.

Sept. CLICATO, will be a Presence of the Committee of the

socialism crimanous towards the firebo of the junt Net mornisms what politice of an shores and godes is doing to our necket normes of secondar fields in doing to our necket normes of secondar in the secondary production of the forests has a firebound of the secondary and the forests has the set developing when he gives to make believe should be forest many shore. Even earliest and partition could be made apply and passion are toward The ambiental effects of motion storage are interestion, but to data its constraints possible the research of the storage of the storage storage of the storage storage of edicating and a declaring at an alternate value and it can not be which by a decision assu and automobient. For whomeon states have a single advantage of the storage of what it specifies the population of the world way have decided rates.

paint, the just suggested that the only-scholios, and one good for some cost than one even matter to us. in THE CONQUEST OF SPACE—foot B. Cive Rhyu, III.

This is an alterning prospect indeed It appears as if markingly versiones; melters will

pears as if makelend's ventiones realizes will indeed detect the planet urban she conquent of spece becomes a restiry. Failing that the only reconque would useen to be convincionen, for at the rate justified in breeding, the only recongue he will not be able to est out of consicret in himself. Arribota's want to start a care is himself. Arribota's want to start a

#### THE WISHING WELL

Drar Mr. Mings. I have an usessed request to make Catago your point to 15 erests As you lesson, many of your compensates have been green. This change will coulde them to present better to be the property of the property better Art S. and T.W.S. are not (recruite reage, 3 do not visit an over their quality determines the tolesses price. With the Vader price, your bedget

The control of the co

proceed through the steep. (All tests for its detion of the steep of

field any of you take reache the se the ager field any are selected in gently tegether, got don't will the

Mr. Mirles, I would greatly appreciate m of you will list the feerer editors of SS. DWS. CV and STRANGE STORIES with their seware of office. How shoot reprinting power of the station from "NTRANGE? You have a vertext rold make in the

the new some of Kartner, Princed, ep., then that was one sciention I would like to see THE CITADEL OF DARKNESS Sun Mercan was very agreement as often My

bigground (faresting the warkers) seems in redicing that you'll so a swell job. Lets of leck-

There's something more about that letter -Apart from the personal expressions of good well and all that, there is a completely usualfold

interest in the maragines and in the 108 we're As so your requests: Nobody would disagree

with you. We'd sure flue to see larger stories. time a copy would do. Some, but not all tol that, and we hate to rame the price. Exercibody's covery review. The rang toppe of the

barometer of pricel, shows plut about everything up quite & check-and and when we time to so on, we'll gut nothern at all for the

As to the other 'meetions' --- in cremes by S.S. Hald, translated by Fletcher Pratt, of the car's used of our own magazines are

being roud You're Buty to rish acress many As to former editors, reading from ferest to sent back to 1980 and below him was Mort

Weitinger, who were back from 1940 to 1936 when we took over from Geresbuck There havin't been reser Couldn't any low many spore there will be Can you for oil westerns?

#### JUST A DREAMER

Denc Marwin, I see that your same is no longer that your many looked a lot better on the file page Fig. entry to see Let & Re Cole are leaving TRV. that they like their stories haven on the artracy and Science be a state to fiction or visa copus? Here how specific it may get, set it in Maybe they average about one or two to the issue. The main them is, indoor a mobile of the read policy, and don't havor enther side. At the present, with a few

well writin ferios. The effects problem in I behere to sell the ungazine to the grapher member. and it seems that basely, you have been selling a been all their years? I pever have you could write world but you sure our write Mune of Many There was only one their wring with the whole

ending to have but Much marry Spanies and have passed Elect of as Muraled Herry, Soil, as good Except 1'still doubt that a move star would No. a clerk Jack Vanne's strey was year below the trust stredged And in my opinion, Yes, Sir, Stank, The With Print of Britisher was accluding was coulty a fine picco of writing. All to all it was New to the openy doct. Why don't you get stories. by VV., Hamdon, Kutzer, and Ferrel Also, how should never more stories by Bore LaFayette Deer a one thing that I are currous about Is John peared as a book sealer Kuttner's name but

And my, so a parting shot, why don't you change your may to a wick, even if you bryle to charge Se for in The good cover stock would really stoo Barrey a chapce to show off his art. His giver trium he is having a few too many people hiding behind alasmy -34% Martole Arrest. Pos-

I can't recall ever bounding a story because a was too probactal. That's so problers. The worst of it can be trispered in editing if it seems to slow down the story' executively. So there is really no argunized about "levence womes deireally no argunized about "levence womes deireal". The coly problem is getting councy good of some is made up a 60 point inner of whatever your own ayout not dissinfactions is Variet be surprised at the assessed of pecking over you have been also assessed to provide the story of the story of the contract of pecking over you the lesson, as Devit Triffer you'll see many started by Riche (see, 460°).

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## GOOD, BUT-

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## ONE HAPPY READER

ONE HAPPY READER by Rick Darn

Dear Mr. Merwin This is one of the latters offerer say they are so food of parting, a first. Yes, this is the first letter Pro-ever written are offere And Fire set one haltons let us say The best render Senter-Ficture magazine, after the Jay 100° mass of S. Devrously, I had seen the term of the processing of the control of the processing of the control of the processing to write to an oblive said get sense things of my children for the first SR, read TEV and heaters, and we address got the said series, and embedding of the mage or writes. So there, after three-managing of disorderform, are my comments on Sectors/Proper.

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#### more-coming up, since he is now in full time production? That make you happy? LAST REFUGE

Dear Mr. Merwin. In offers months your covers or SS and TWS lake been a refreshing charge from what were made into come to covered as a from what your public hits codes to report as a status quo I suppose I have made more dun my covers. Civing, bowever, credit where it is die

The only spiry I've read in this large on far it It some that SS-and TWS are the last referen locad and I hope you will local on ordering these.

first in SS in abseter version, which then hit the book markets, expanded to 60,000 or so. hard covers and two bucks and a half. Read

## on fest in SS for two bits

by George A. Faster Dear Sare Picked to S.S. on the news stand yesterfay. September home. Egreed that you found my letter amusing Do not feel a bit humorous this

TIME TRACK EXPRESS

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PS My his of fasories suthern't L. Roe Hobbard, Fondric Brown, Microsy Lemmer, Heary (Lewis Fudgett) Kullius, Jack Varia, John D MacDanald, Robert A. Hemlein, Imac Asimov,

Yogs, and ino many others to mention.

This is kind of a dream letter at that. Not a

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by Horold Houtetler

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simply that I do not think you are any heter as a writer than many others PERHAPS ... you are an better to an effor . I am antice of my proju-No one the present transfers for write manof reference It is not imposal ... but at is Assesse. the other fellow's protound patelliannes - when

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#### BACK TO CIVILIZATION he Louro E. Jake

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very firm rule; we are not recognible for any bundles left over 30 days. Welcome Auck

#### SWAP AND KISSES by Dovid Gatierres

Dear Sam. We are trying to start a new S-F clob called THE PLANETEERS, and in order to cause those we wish you-crosed make the ar-5-If magazines or books and 75c to me. 1 well. send five different books or range in centers. Befor that we are a new plus, new autroutions vicante of Ft Landerdale, Florida who would Nie to become members, just done as a gard and

he used for a lot of 75 century. And incidenthe hage and leases for the suggestions you MURDER INCORPORATED

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[Form panel]



## DETECTIVE Particulars FREE GEG. T. H. WAGNER, 125 W. 86th St.,



THE LAST STORY was the best thing in the a Bigle true with it is sucke saye it's right, i be-leve I know how the pre-left. There's nothing like a restly printed a rejection skip to make a core

happy, or to bring back retrievels of the good old TX SIR! was pretty good Netwer extra deal I'd be william to bet the year-majority of you renders are radio: young guys, I'm 23, and I cor-They are not the least his consordieds and ofers. I

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and similar-letters will not be you exist of a slook to you But I also kepe 'you'll understand us well , not hold these threes around us, when we reduced

This is the first chance I've had to say throks for your other sets and the general welcome, , youth or years of our rendem Chronological age doesn't love much ta, do with it. Some penpic stay young, others are born old. What is

PARTING OF THE WAYS

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starricterization. It would have put me to sleep Surgering it all up, science fiction in detal in your magazines. I shall turn my eyes to other, he saws. — P. O. Bus. 400, Distributory, Crist.

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#### IDEAS FIRST he Funese DeWeste

Dear Editor: " . Which is no clever sa open-But don't give up bone, I ale considered somethat of a vit-overly of the Half. Ourieror Not variety, of course . . . Why for you go under cowr again? Perhes became off your boing surface of the land more! And while speaking of each, how many mass are

of other than \$5 and TWS! Marke anistial editors? Harine three masts of SS and one TWS at hand and comewhat mixed tractions to some of Pine, for the favorable-type feather See yes, how everything in point to come out in the ordinary advocane, detection, western, septery, low, oir tales, one can take for granted at the

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n should be morely ". Setton with a fab of tumbo-simus and that such "dah" though If that were the coop, could it even be called "severe-fiction"? It would be just plan Love, Adventure. Agrees, etc., Ection with whatever fection which I consider a printy loary dwing to on Ov. the stad suffer could take a science-Section story, more it back to present day Earth, It's always been my belief that the "idea" is and whoever the piec, chrossing, confect, see theself come as a result of the Botte day. They should come a thour as Merray Existence asys he writer most of his is II. His poles, as the account, now what heapters, their mostes writer a party remain the above. Such as he measures in the irreducions as SIDEWISE, IN TIME, while opportunities as SIDEWISE, IN TIME, while opportunities are SIDEWISE, IN TIME, and DE PROTURDIS.
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rouse to resolver. We're talking about skurdeniscs, understand; we certainty are not 'mplying that all frammes give rise to the about mentioned critical filterina. Fig frees it. There is a healthy prevention of shederd upok, writty real cutoffs in constant, usually supervisely illustrated and printed, there, as the given in supprint of reasonably explide, reasonably expliquing interest, there are the sid-area and moves these, whose level of pretentions.

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#### SCIENCE FICTION MOVIE REVIEW

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CHIES is by all means the best strenge fee tion film we have so far seen. It achieves a forling of reality, of "it mucht have hopsecond," and it does this by toffine its atory in terms which the average person can under-

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In all, this is crife a milegons in all receive. The choice is stary-own is post one and the production, that is such as a large of the and the production, that is conclus in strong Christie Bestler, H. V. Kildendorn, Brian Davis and Drew Penneer appear as the covers, adole verificatilizate. And the fact that these connectainty allowed them, after that these connectainty allowed them, after that these connectainty allowed them, after that the reconstructions allowed them, after in the record file of the connectainty.

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